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LD0703144389 [Editorial Report]

Iran

The Foreign Ministry announced the "complete severance of diplomatic ties with Britain" for its failure to fulfill the conditions set by the Majlis to clarity its position on the Salman Rushdie novel, IRNA reported, citing a 7 March statement issued by the ministry.

Sudan

Political Developments—Ministers of the Sudanese Government resigned 6 March, according to a Cabinet communique cited by SUNA. The resignations are to enable the new government to be formed. In another development, SUNA reported that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is to visit Libya 7 March to address the Libyan General People's Congress.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "has abandoned" a visit to Sudan scheduled for April, London's PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. According to an announcement from the prime minister's office, the visit has been "postponed" because of "political uncertainties" in Sudan, the agency added.

Southern Military Situation—SPLA forces captured Jummayzah garrison town 4 March after government troops "evacuated the town without a fight," carrying away whatever they could, and "throwing heavy weapons into the river," according to the clandestine SPLA radio. A warning to the garrisons at Bor and Mongalla to join the SPLA or to evacuate the garrisons "still stands," the radio added.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told Kuwaiti journalists he is ready to visit Israel for talks with "Zionist officials" providing the visit is "endorsed" by all Arab governments, according to an IRNA report. He said the PLO is "also prepared to halt guerrilla raids against Israeli positions in occupied southern Lebanon," the agency noted.

'Arafat claimed he had "indirect talks" with an Israeli delegation in Cairo during Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt in February, WAKH reported. 'Arafat said his views and those of the Israelis were conveyed through Shevardnadze "and these are indirect talks."

A Palestinian spokesman criticized the 3 March remarks made by U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman about recent "incidents and operations" in southern Lebanon, Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio reported. The Palestinian spokesman said it is "strange" that the United States should "single out" Palestinian actions while remaining silent about Israeli attacks.

Israel

Peace Talks—Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said 'Arafat "is very eager for a cease-fire with Israel, and is trying to achieve one," according to THE JERUSALEM POST. Shahal proposed that Israel and the United States should sign a "strategic memorandum of understanding" to set the guidelines for negotiations.

Shahal also declared that the idea of "setting up a Palestinian leadership in the territories as an alternative to the PLO is an "illusion" as Israel "cannot find an alternative leadership." Shahal proposed "self-rule" in the Gaza Strip under the "sponsorship of the two superpowers" and the participation of Egypt, according to THE JERUSALEM POST.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said on 6 March that Jordan and Egypt should propose members for a "temporary" delegation of Palestinians to peace talks, Tel Aviv IDF radio reported. Speaking to a Socialist International delegation, Shamir added he hopes Egypt will support the "Camp David plan" once they realize that an independent Palestinian state "is not a realistic solution."

The United States should issue an "unequivocal" statement to remind Shamir of the basic problems in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Amman's JORDAN TIMES stated.

The paper welcomed British Minister William Waldegrave's remarks on the "utterly impossible" character of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, but pointed out that such "interventions on the side of common sense and legitimacy," cannot by themselves "unbend the twisted Israeli extremist thinking."

The "utterly stupid" remarks recently by Shamir have cast "serious doubt" about even beginning the peace process, the paper added.

Situation in Territories—Two people were killed and 11 injured in clashes with the IDF in the West Bank and Gaza 6 March, and a "security prisoner" died in Gaza prison's interrogation room, according to Jerusalem radio reports.

A Defense Ministry source denied that the IDF intends to include more villages in the security zone "despite the fact that five villages in the area have expressed such a desire," Jerusalem radio reported.

On the other hand, Lebanese Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has asked the "five major powers" to prevent Israel from "annexing" five villages in the security zone, according to Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio.

Lebanon

Muslim leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called for a "dialogue of realistic understanding" between Muslims and Christians "without attempts to score points," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Fadlallah pointed out that being an Arab or a Muslim "does not preclude being a Lebanese."

A communique issued 6 March by the Lebanese Army's Guidance Directorate noted that the closure of the Beirut Port crossing and an attack on Army positions in Suq al-Gharb were linked with the reopening of the Naval Operations Room, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. According to Beirut's Voice of Lebanon radio, the port crossing was closed by General Sami al-Khatib's forces.

Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn chaired a cabinet meeting 7 March which criticized "attempts to create tension" by those who opposed the reopening of the Beirut Port crossing and other actions taken with "public support," Beirut's Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Afghanistan

Food Supplies, Military Situation—Another convoy of 180 vehicles arrived in Kabul 6 March with fuel, food, and other basic goods, according to Kabul radio.

Recent military operations by government troops in Parvan and other provinces left more than 60 "extremists" dead and 43 injured, Kabul radio reported. Quantitities of arms and ammunition were seized by the Army during the operations.

The Foreign Ministry lodged a "strong protest" over Pakistan's "aggression and provocative actions" in Paktia and Nangarhar Provinces, Kabul radio reported.

The protest alleged that a group of 150 Pakistani militiamen entered Paktia 5 March to carry out "illegal destructive" activities and another group of 250 militiamen and 100 soldiers "disguised in Afghan costume" entered Nangarhar to assist the "extremists."

Mujahidin Politics—Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the "Interim Government of Afghanistan," has welcomed the Iran-based mujahidins' offer of talks with the Pakistan-based alliance, according to Islamabad radio.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Indirect Talks With Israel Held in Cairo

JN0703080889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0544 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Doha, 6 Mar (WAKH)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has said that he held indirect talks with an Israeli delegation in Cairo in February.

Addressing a mass rally held at the Palestinian Embassy here tonight, 'Arafat pointed out that Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, who was present in Cairo at the time, "would meet with the Israeli delegation and then meet with me and convey Israel's views to me and my views to them, and these are indirect talks."

He added: "We should admit that there are international developments, and he who does not exploit these developments will lose the opportunity." He stressed that the Palestinians are fighting for a political objective, namely the liberation of land and the establishment of the Palestinian state on any part Israel withdraws from.

'Arafat spoke about international developments, pointing out that among these developments is the international agreement on settling all hot issues, including the Iraq-Iran war and the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, in addition to Egypt's return to the Arab fold.

The Palestinian leader warned that the Israelis "will carry out a preventive strike and dispatch an armored brigade to the occupied Lebanese border strip." He called on U.S. President Bush's administration to pressure the Israelis to withdraw their forces from Arab territories. He said: "I hope President Bush will tell Israel to leave Palestinian territories."

'Abd Rabbuh: Shevardnadze, Baker To View Mideast

LD0703101289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0809 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Vienna, March 7 (KUNA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has pledged to raise the Mideast question in talks he is holding with U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, Tuesday morning, a Palestinian official has said.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member told KUNA that Shevardnadze made the commitment during their meeting here yesterday on the sidelines of the Vienna conference on European conventional disarmament attended by 35 nations.

'Abd Rabbuh, who is head of the PLO Information Department, said Shevardnadze promised that the Palestinian problem and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict would be high on the agenda in his talks with the American secretary of state.

The Palestinian official was full of praise for the "friendly and supportive" Soviet stance on the national Palestinian cause.

He pointed up the Soviet initiative for an international peace conference attended by the five permanent U.N. Security Council members and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict inclusive of the PLO.

'Abd Rabbuh has flown to Vienna for talks with delegates attending the disarmament talks with the aim of gaining international support for the international conference and PLO representation.

In another encounter, 'Abd Rabbuh met yesterday Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, ahead of a meeting between Andersson and James Baker of the U.S.

A second round of talks is scheduled between 'Abd Rabbuh and Andersson, whose country played a key role in quiet diplomacy that led to direct dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

Official Spokesman Responds to Redman Remarks

JN0603194989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1749 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Statement by an "official Palestinian spokesman" on 4 March—place not given]

[Text] Brothers: Responding to a statement made yesterday, 3 March 1989 by Charles Redman about recent incidents and operations in southern Lebanon, an official Palestinian spokesman stated the following:

It is indeed strange that Charles Redman, U.S. State Department official spokesman, should lose no time in commenting on the two recent military engagements between two Palestinian armed groups and the Israeli army in southern Lebanon. In these engagements, the two Palestinian groups were killed by Israeli ambushes that were lying in wait on Lebanese territory. Israel tries to use this territory to divert attention from its daily crimes against the intifadah [uprising] and against our people in the occupied land.

At the same time, the spokesman remains closemouthed about the air, sea, and land raids as well as the daily bombing of Lebanese villages and towns and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, the last target being a children's school south of Beirut in which 20 children were wounded. As if they are not human beings, the spokesman failed to utter a word against the crime of Israeli aircraft bombing them.

We find it strange that the American spokesman should single out the Palestinian side in events in southern Lebanon, choosing to forget Israel's 1982 invasion of the area, which left 72,000 Lebanese and Palestinian martyrs and wounded and led to the exodus of the core of the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon. The spokesman also chooses to forget the continuing raids of attrition over the years against Palestinians and Lebanese in their camps and villages. The spokesman sounds like he is demanding that Palestinians and Lebanese capitulate to Israeli occupation, aggression, bombings, and raids.

Does the official American spokesman see the Palestinians and Lebanese suspending their self-defense against this continuing Israeli aggression and letting themselves be sitting ducks for these aggressions against our Lebanese and Palestinian kinfolk in the south, part of which is still Israeli-occupied despite international resolutions against these crimes, aggressions, and occupation? Furthermore, Israeli blackmail is still being exercised against the present U.S. Administration, which labels self-defense and the defense of our children and camps as terror, choosing to forget the continuous, systematic Israeli military terror.

The serious situation in southern Lebanon was the subject of indirect talks and discussions between us and the Israeli leadership through international intermediaries. The discussions centered on a return to the ceasefire agreement that had prevailed in southern Lebanon before the 1982 Israeli invasion and that was broken by the invasion.

Is the American official spokesman seeking to revive this agreement by applying pressure on the PLO alone just like that and without a reciprocal commitment by Israel to halt its aggression against and occupation of southern Lebanon and to end the blockade of Lebanon's southern coasts and the continuing acts of Israeli piracy against Lebanese and Palestinian ships even when they are on the high seas? Just because the Israelis have not reached such a new agreement with the PLO, they want to impose it arbitrarily by bringing pressure to bear on the new administration by confusing legitimate self-defense with occupation, raids, and terror, be it indivudual or group or state terrorism that the PLO [word indistinct] completely.

The PLO categorically rejects the confusion of these issues. We trust the American Administration will not let itself fall into this trap. If the sincere will exists to arrive at the same agreement that existed in 1981 and 1982, certain conditions will first have to be met as we made clear to the Israeli leadership through international intermediaries.

The PLO launched its initiative to establish a just peace in the region. It does not seek a temporary truce, but wants permanent, comprehensive, and just peace at the same time. The PLO is serious and committed to this effort despite the rejectionist Israeli position that constitutes the major stumbling block to all the present efforts by international and regional good offices on behalf of peace and spurns and defies international resolutions on the Palestine question and the Middle East. The PLO, as is universally known, is capable of honoring its commitments officially, legally, and practically.

Abu Sharif Denies Requesting U.S. Entry Visa

JN0603193689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1837 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, 6 Mar (INA)—Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has denied reports that he requested an entry visa to the United States. In a statement carried by the Palestinian news agency here today, he said reports carried by news agencies and some newspapers on this issue are baseless.

He voiced the hope that the U.S. Administration will soon complete its reassessment of its policy toward granting entry visas to the Palestinian leaders in a way that conforms to the stand Washington adopted last year, which recognized the PLO and initiated dialogue with it.

U.S.-Israeli Plan To End 'Uprising' Disclosed

NC0303194289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1757 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Mar (MENA)—The magazine AL-SAKHRAH, published by the Palestinian Information Center in Kuwait, has disclosed highlights of a strategic U.S.-Israeli agreement aimed at ending the Palestinian uprising, circumventing current Palestinian political moves, and foiling the Palestinian approach to peace. Under the agreement, Israel will make certain moves to stall and reject the Palestinian approach, while at the same time the United States will slow down its dealings with the PLO to deactivate the Palestinian initiative, which emerged as a result of international sympathy and support.

According to the agreement, the intelligence services of both countries will conduct subversive economic operations in Israel and Jordan to weaken the dinar and its purchasing power and to tighten the noose around the necks of citizens in the occupied territories and Jordan. This is intended to drive them to despairing of a solution and to facilitate a return to the Jordanian option as a way out of the crisis. The agreement also mentions certain cosmetic steps by Israel to brush up its policy, such as returning telephone lines to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and releasing certain detainees and persuading them to initiate a dialogue with the Israelis apart from the PLO. The United States will, in the meantime, make positive statements about the PLO without committing itself to a unified stand and continue stalling the dialogue with the PLO.

Mosad Plan To Uncover 'Uprising' Leaders Revealed

JN0703114289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Mar 89 pp 3, 20

[Text] Paris—Well-informed Palestinian sources have disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD that the Israeli intelligence organ, Mosad, has sent a number of its agents to monitor PLO offices in Europe and Africa and provide information on Palestinian moves inside the occupied territory in exchange for sums of money totalling more than $1,500,000. The sources said that Mosad, at the outbreak of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], had formed a network of agents in the occupied territory whose basic mission was to infiltrate the PLO offices abroad and express readiness to provide useful information to the PLO.

The sources added: Under the Israeli plan, the recruited agents would give information to the PLO, and Mosad would send forged letters and money to certain individuals in the occupied territory. The objective was to disclose the nature of the work of those people, their organizational tasks, their missions, and their organizational relations with the intifadah popular committees.

The Palestinian sources disclosed that the PLO offices in London, Paris, and Athens had received telephone calls from persons expressing readiness to provide information about the side and those responsible for carrying out the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces. The sources added that a Netherlands girl contacted the PLO office in Athens a month ago claiming that her friend was detained in an Israeli prison and that she was going to visit this friend. She said that she was ready to deliver Palestinian financial aid to the Palestinian detainees there or to any person outside Israeli prisons.

The sources added that this girl made this contact from Tel Aviv. The sources affirmed that the Zionist security organs are so far unable to determine how the leaders of the Palestinian intifadah inside the occupied territory receive the necessary funds and assistance. Mosad asked certain people in occupied Jerusalem to deliver sums of money to Fatah groups in the West Bank and Gaza in order to uncover these groups.

The sources said that a youth from Jerusalem was contacted by a Zionist agent to deliver 15,000 Jordanian dinars to Fatah groups in the occupied territory on the basis that the money came from Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. However, the youth asked to be given time to think the matter over. This prompted the Israeli authorities to arrest the youth and send him to prison for 1 year so that he would not disclose the matter.

PNSF To Escalate Operations Against Israel

JN0703090589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Mar (WAKH)—Press reports here today said that during an expanded meeting a week ago, the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] made important decisions on the escalation of military operations against the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon.

Citing informed Palestinian sources, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published in Abu Dhabi today, said that orders have actually been issued to several PNSF combat groups to carry out qualitative operations in northern occupied Palestine.

As a result of this, these sources expected an escalation of the confrontation between the Palestinian factions and the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon.

PLO To Call for 'Emergency' UN Session

JN0203155489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (WAKH)—An official Palestinian source said here today that the PLO is now studying the possibility of calling for a UN Security Council session to discuss the deteriorating situation in Nabulus and the miserable situation of the Palestinian prisoners in the Ansar 3 detention camp. In a statement to a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad, the Palestinian source said that the PLO will hold the necessary contacts to call for an emergency session. He added that the situation in Nabulus can no longer be tolerated as a result of escalating Israeli military campaigns.

Reports said that the city of Nabulus, which has been isolated from the world since last Friday, is still being exposed to the Zionist repressive measures.

The Palestinian source noted the importance of a move by international organizations to save the lives of Palestinian prisoners in Ansar 3 and to condemn the repressive measures carried out by the occupation authorities against those prisoners.

The Palestinian source added: The lives of approximately 5,000 detainees, who declared an open hunger strike 4 days ago in protest against the repressive measures and torture, are in grave danger. The source said that humanitarian and human rights organizations should move before it is too late and before others are added to the victims of Israeli repression and the martyrs of the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory.

DFLP-GC To Execute Islamic Law on Rushdie

JN0503183489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] has issued a statement on Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses." Following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: The unbelievers say: "Listen not to this Koran, but talk at random in the midst of its reading, that ye may gain the upper hand!" But we will certainly give the unbelievers a taste of a severe penalty, and we will requite them for the worst of their deeds. [Koranic verses] Since Islam dawned in Mecca and its warm sun spread in the Arabian peninsula and its lights lit the hearts of millions throughout the world, the machinations of infidelity and infidels and the intrigues of arrogance and the arrogant have been taking place against Islam and Muslims. No sooner do Muslims come to the end of one war, when another war is triggered against them. And no sooner does one conspiracy comes to light against Muslims, than another is hatched against them.

The statement of Ahmad Jibril added: Their Satans have inspired them to their new conspiracy, and they chose this time to train the arrows of their rancor upon the heart and core of Islam—the book of God. They made the target of their spiteful pens the messenger of God, the noblest man there has been, and his virtuous family. They directed their agent and protege Salman Rushdie to produce his book "The Satanic Verses"—a mixture of spite, venom, aspersions, and falsification—in a desperate attempt to discredit the book of God and His messenger. The Satanic news media on all sides then set about propagating this book. Their intention is to extinguish God's Light by blowing with their mouths: But God will complete the revelation of His Light, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verses]

Ahmad Jibril's statement said in conclusion: On this subject we say: We in the PFLP-GC say that we will confront this new conspiracy, and we will work to execute the Islamic law against Salman Rushdie wherever we can in defense of the righteous religion and its messenger. Never think that God would fail His apostles in His promise; for God is exalted in power—the Lord of retribution. [Koranic verses]

Qaddumi on U.S., UK 'Conditions' for Talks

NC0203100089 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Mar 89 p 8

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department head, by Muhammad Salman in Abu Dhabi—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Salman] What happened to the question of declaring a Palestinian government in exile?

[Qaddumi] The proper time has not yet come to form this provisional government. Political conditions must develop until the stage of convening the international conference is reached. At that point, we must think of forming a provisional government. Meanwhile, the PNC resolutions provide for the PLO Executive Commuittee to act in the place of the government. Therefore, the Executive Committee is now carrying out the tasks of a provisional government until political conditions are right for forming this government.

[Salman] There has been a lot of talk about U.S. and British conditions for the PLO's participation in the international conference. What is your stand?

[Qaddumi] The question of a confederation is an internal Arab matter that we avoid discussing because it concerns us and Jordan. Therefore, this should not be a condition for our participation in the international conference. We categorically reject any conditions for our participation in the conference. We know that what makes conditions right for a just political solution is the continuation of the intifadah [uprising], because of the facts it creates on the ground. This means that conditions have not yet reached the point of not only convincing, but compelling, the other parties—and I mean Israel—to fully acknowledge our national rights, including our right to establish an independent Palestinian state, and to withdraw completely from Palestinian territory.

[Salman] How do you view the Soviet stand on the subject of the Palestinian state?

[Qaddumi] The Soviet Union is a friend. It supports the PLO as the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinian people]. It supports the establishment of a Palestinian state. It also supports the convening of the international conference according to UN specifications. This is the Soviet stand. [passage omitted]

[Salman] How far is the PLO ready to go to restore relations with Syria?

[Qaddumi] For years the PLO has tried to normalize Syrian-Palestinian relations. I would like to say that we have reached a dead end. Perhaps the current circumstances, these brilliant touches to reduce Arab differences, and the desire to build balanced and harmonious Arab relations in the wake of the Iraq-Iran war will create an atmosphere of optimism that will be conducive to normalizing inter-Arab relations and returning Egypt to the Arab League. This will also help normalize Syrian-Palestinian relations. This is our hope, which needs more effort to be achieved.

[Salman] With the camps war having stopped, is there a new plan to regulate the Palestinian presence in Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] When matters return to normal in Lebanon, we will be prepared to sit with the legitimate authority and discuss any details on the Palestinian presence.

[Alman] Apparently the PLO has formed new alliances in Lebanon. How will this affect a solution [to the political crisis] in Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] The PLO shuns all alliances in Lebanon because it is careful not to meddle in Lebanon's internal affairs. Our main interest in Lebanon is to protect and maintain the Palestinian presence, to ensure the freedom of political and information-related activities, and to support all the constructive efforts aimed at safeguarding Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, freedom, and pan-Arab commitments.

[Salman] How would you describe the meeting between Michel 'Awn and Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis?

[Qaddumi] This meeting gives clear evidence that the PLO is offering its hand to all the national forces in Lebanon, without constraints or conditions. We seek to establish coordinated and harmonious relations with all these forces. If Dr Salim al-Huss had sought to meet with us, we would have been ready. [passage omitted]

[Salman] There are reports of contacts between the PLO and Israeli quarters to achieve a truce in the Lebanese south.

[Qaddumi] It must be clear to all that the PNC has passed resolutions to open a dialogue with all democratic and progressive Jewish forces inside and outside Israel. This is a policy that we pursue openly; we do not seek to cover it up or obscure it. We would establish a dialogue with all those forces that support the self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state. This is a clear policy instituted by the PNC.

What Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was referring to, however, is similar to what happened in 1981, when Israel demanded, through the UN Security Council, that we establish a truce with Israel after we waged rocket attacks on the occupied areas of northern Palestine. The Israeli demand resulted in a truce mediated by some Arab countries.

[Salman] Would a truce lead to the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian people stand beside the Lebanese people in their resistance, and we will remain alongside the Lebanese people until the Israelis withdraw from the south. This is a right of the Lebanese resistance, and it is our duty to support our brothers in the Lebanese national resistance in eliminating the Israeli presence in southern Lebanon.

[Salman] Have you noticed any change in U.S. policy since President Bush assumed office?

[Qaddumi] We have not seen any change in U.S. policy, not before and not since. To say it will hold a dialogue with the PLO is a natural thing to do for a state that claims it is making a considerable contribution to preserving international peace and security.

The dialogue in itself is not what is needed. What is required of the United States in order not to be biased and to get closer to the international conference is for it to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, to cancel the Grassley Amendment issued by the U.S. Congress in 1987, to reopen the PLO office (information office in Washington), and to abrogate all the laws it is now applying on PLO delegations that visit New York to attend the UN General Assembly meetings.

[Salman] When will the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue resume?

[Qaddumi] The contacts are continuing through the U.S. ambassador in Tunis and our ambassador in Tunis. But has the dialogue had any tangible results? No, it has not, not yet. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Delivers Speech on Preachers' Day

NC0503114989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak delivered a speech at an Al-Awqaf Ministry ceremony marking Preachers' Day today. Following is the text of the speech.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Grand imam, shaykh of Al-Azhar, venerable 'ulema, guiding preachers: It gives me great pleasure to meet you at this distinquished gathering to share with you the anniversary of the great day when the chosen Prophet—may the best prayer and purest peace be upon him—made his midnight journey to the seven heavens. [passage omitted]

While the work of preachers is a religious and national duty that they carry out for their society, the state also has a duty toward them. This is done by properly preparing them, providing a dignified life for them, and supplying to them everything that will help them perform their duty.

We have reached a state of comprehensive development that organizes the political, economic, agricultural, industrial, scientific, and cultural aspects of the homeland. All these aspects must of course be developed in the best fashion and in the shortest possible time, so that we may compensate for the past and surmount the crisis imposed on us by four cruel wars that devastated cities, destroyed amenities, squandered resources, wasted millions, and obstructed progress.

This desired comprehensive development cannot be properly undertaken unless we begin with man—the basis of all development; it is man that will carry it out, be responsible for it, and guide it to its goal. The development of man rests on correcting thoughts, enriching minds, awakening consciences, polishing sentiments, edifying morals, and rectifying behaviors.

It is here that your role, O guiding preachers, comes in, so that you may support—through your blessed efforts and generosity—the efforts of others working in the sphere of development, such as teachers, intellectuals, media officials, writers, and thinkers. [passage omitted]

Many of the negative phenomena about which we complain, the dangers which threaten us, and the problems besieging us have resulted from some citizens' lack of a clear and proper perception of religion, from others' lack of proper insight into the essence of religion, and from others' lack of conscience.

It is you, O guiding preachers, who are the most capable of correcting the religious outlook, of enlightening others about Islam's true meaning, and of awakening sleeping consciences. I am convinced that if you increase your efforts and perform the call to religion properly—which requires correct preparation and planning in addition to faithful performance—numerous negative aspects which we complain about would disappear from our lives.

You would also make a great contribution to the comprehensive development process. You would be participating in the battle of reawakening, the battle of reconstruction, and the battle of overcoming the crisis in order to take the homeland to a shore of safety and an era of stability and prosperity.

Yes, O preachers, hope is pinned on you to help the comprehensive development process because you are the ones best able to develop the moral aspect of man by entrenching the creed, enriching the mind, correcting the intellect, and awakening the conscience and the heart. Hope is also pinned on you to help repel the dangers that threaten society and its future with grave consequences if the extent of these dangers is not recognized and if action to resist them and protect society from them is not doubled.

There are three major dangers. These are: extremism that leads to terrorism; drug addiction that leads to crime; and a population explosion that is leading to ruin.

Regarding extremism, those who are swept up by its current need more reasoned dialogue and the correct and patient guidance that enriches Islam's teachings, shows that Islam is tolerant, and convinces one that there is no coercion in Islam and that religion bestows great riches. Religion is built up by winning others over. The basis for preaching is wisdom, good example, and logical and reasonable argument. Changing what is hateful is not for anyone but for he who is capable and has the religious jurisdiction that allows him to use force to bring about change and punish those who deserve to be punished.

The Prophet decided this when he said: If he cannot do it through action then he should do so with his tongue, and if not with that, then with his heart. This confirms that not everyone can, or has the authority or the prerogative, to change what is abominable with his own hands and power. This is very clear. If everyone used his hands to bring about change, people would be fighting each other in the streets and society would become a large arena for disputes and even battles and fighting.

Many of those who are following the path of religious extremism are the sons of the homeland. They do not lack sincere belief but rather lack good understanding, sound judgment, and correct conduct. Here is your role, O preachers. You must double your efforts and must not tire of the dialogue in order to let youth see the way and guide the citizens toward whatever protects the homeland from an extremism that sometimes resorts to bearing arms, killing people, spreading panic, and frightening the innocent.

As for drug addiction, it is the disease that weakens the conscience, clouds the mind, destroys morals, and drives one to commit the vilest crimes. It also squanders money and destroys the national economy in the end.

As you know, some people still think that alcohol is prohibited but that detestable drugs are not like alcohol because their prohibition was not mentioned in the Koran. One of the priorities in your preaching should be to enlighten the people that the prohibition on alcohol also applies to drugs. What matters is not the name of what is consumed or used, but rather the effects of what is consumed or used. Doctors and men of thought have agreed that drugs are more dangerous than alcohol. Drug addiction leads to suicide. Yes, preachers, one of the priorities of your preaching should be to intensify efforts of explaining to the people that drugs are more prohibited than alcohol. [passage omitted]

As for the population explosion, the situation has become so grave that it no longer tolerates extremist intellectual arguments or thinking that God will provide.

Our society, as you know, increases by 1.3 million people annually. If the situation continues like this, our society will increase by 1.5 million, then 2 million, then 3 million annually, and so forth, thus multiplying our population several times.

We are a country with limited resources. We incur heavy debts in order to provide food and services to the citizens, defend the country against foreign aggression, maintain internal stability, and rebuild utilities, modernize factories, and increase employment opportunities. All this has demanded and is demanding the expenditure of billions and billions of pounds. It has caused increased debts, burdened the budget, and threatened to make it impossible to continue providing the necessary services to the citizens with the required efficiency.

There is no doubt that one of the most important reasons for this is the increase in the population in a manner that consumes all the results of development. It increases the budget deficit, leads to a greater burden of loans, lowers the standard of services, and places burdens on the state and future generations—hindering their progress and limiting their will. There is no way to escape all these dangers except through family planning. The most learned men in religion have permitted family planning on the basis of established provisions in our tolerant religious laws. These provisions fully conform with the essence of religion. [passage omitted] It remains for me to say in all hope and confidence that we rely on you to contribute to solving your country's problems through work and the performance of your duties. Undoubtedly, the economic problem is our primary concern. You are aware that the basic cause of the economic problem is expenditure in excess of the revenues from production and resources. Overspending is due to extravagance, increased consumption, and lack of the will to economize. It also amounts to disdain for public assets, so much so that some people encroach on them and covet them. The slump in production also results from negligence, unawareness of the value of the work, and niggardliness with regard to improving the products. At times this reaches the point of cheating and of allowing oneself to take without giving anything back.

Guiding preachers, this is where you can play your role. You can make the greatest contribution to resolving the economic problem or alleviating its impact by persistently calling on the people to adhere to the sublime Islamic values, which repudiate extravagance and overspending. [passage omitted]

Guiding preachers, you can therefore contribute to resolving the economic problem by urging more and better work and by calling for the rationalization of expenditure and the preservation and maintenance of the public assets, in assertion of the fear of God. [passage omitted]

A successful preacher is modern, vigilant, and educated; he is aware of the life around him, and knows what the situation demands; he confronts the problems and knows how to prioritize them. Religion signifies construction, development, advancement, progress, and helping life to move forward. It does not signify isolation, negativity, or reliance on others. Preaching means science and specialization. It would be unreasonable for us to leave this important task to those who have not studied Islam but are capable of citing Islam and making rulings in its affairs, in an uncontrolled way. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat Message on Israeli Acts

NC0603210889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the Israeli Authorities' suppressive practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, especially in Nabulus, the biggest city in the West Bank.

PLO representative in Cairo, Sa'd Kamal, gave the message to Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs and Foreign Ministry first undersecretary, this evening.

Al-Baz Meets Palestinian Group From Territories

NC0403151389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied Arab territories. Developments in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were reviewed.

Views U.S.-PLO Dialogue

NC0703150789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that Egypt supports the continuation of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and believes it is necessary that this dialogue turns to the objective aspects of reaching a settlement of the Middle East problem.

Speaking to reporters here today, Dr al-Baz said it is important for the United States to hear directly from the PLO its views on all the substantial points to be negotiated, the prerequisites of peace, the Palestinian position on these negotiations and the demands that might be made during negotiations, the future Palestinian plans, the PLO's views on a possible confederation with Jordan, and what security arrangements the Palestinians could accept. Dr al-Baz added that it would be beneficial for the United States to clarify all these points through direct contacts with the PLO, noting that Egypt was the first to call on the U.S. Administration to initiate this dialogue with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Baz stressed that Egypt supports all the steps made by the PLO to concentrate the peace challenge on Israel and to affirm that the Palestinian people want peace and that they are in the forefront of the parties aiming to achieve stability and security throughout the region. He stressed that the PLO's measures must be consolidated in the minds of the people living outside this region. These people need to realize that the Palestinian peace initiative is a genuine and strategic option—not just a matter of tactics—and that the Palestinian people have no views other than those declared by the PLO leadership.

The first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry said that there are attempts by some quarters to question the intentions of the Palestinian leadership. Therefore, he said, it is highly important to continue the Palestinian policy. It is also important to emphasize that the Palestinian people's desire for peace is an irrevocable and fundamental decision and that Egypt supports all the steps that the PLO would undertake in this respect.

Dr al-Baz noted that it is still premature to say that 'Arafat will go to Israel. He is setting a challenge and showing a specific readiness by assessing the various Israeli positions, he added. Al-Baz added: It seems there are certain parties among those sharing power in Israel who have influence and who are against this, and they do not want 'Arafat to address the Israeli people directly. These parties, he added, continue to put obstacles before all peace-loving forces who want to hold a dialogue with the Palestinian leaders. They do not want the Israeli people to realize that the peace option is a fundamentally strategic one. These quarters devise their policy and propaganda on the basis that the PLO is not serious, that it is an organization that calls for terrorism, that it is insincere in its renunciation of terrorism, and that it would not contribute to the negotiations process should it take part in it. Al-Baz expressed belief that these quarters would wait a long time before responding to Yasir 'Arafat's initiative.

Asked about reports that Algeria and Tunis are mediating between Egypt and Libya, Dr al-Baz said: There is absolutely no mediation. Our relations with all the Arab and non-Arab states are open. If there are contacts, it is we who decide on them. This does not mean that every now and then we do not receive some ideas or suggestions from this or that Arab country, whether regarding Libya or any other subject. He noted that President Mubarak is quite open-minded in his relations with all presidents.

Regarding the developments in Sudan, Dr al-Baz said Egypt lets the Sudanese people run their affairs in order to serve their own best interests.

'Abd al-Majid on Sudan, Arab Coordination

NC0403155089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said Egypt hopes that reason will prevail and lead to a solution to the problems in Sudan, so that normal life may be restored as soon as possible.

Speaking to representatives of Arab news agencies in Cairo today, 'Abd al-Majid said that the Arab atmosphere has become more propitious than before for reaching understanding and consulting on issues of importance to the Arab nation. The sensitivies of the past have been overcome, he noted.

'Abd al-Majid said that the Arab situation is now more favorable than before for the coordination of Arab stands in support of various issues. This, he added, is particularly true with regard to the Palestinian issue, in which there have been positive developments lately. The most notable of these, 'Abd al-Majid stated, are the continuation of the Palestinian uprising, the realistic PNC resolutions, Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Geneva, and the opening of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. 'Abd al-Majid said that these positive developments must give an impetus to the peace process, so that the current obstacle, represented by Israel's rejection of any agreement, may be overcome.

He noted Egypt's current peace efforts and recent contacts in Cairo with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, and

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. He noted President Husni Mubarak's consultations in Japan, the UAE, and Kuwait. The purpose of these meetings was to drive the peace process forward.

'Abd al-Majid asserted that Egypt is not sensitive on the question of Arab groupings. He pointed out that the Arab League's Charter does in fact allow the establishment of such groupings. He noted that the Arabs have much work to do and important consultations to hold in order to achieve their goal and reach a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

Leaves for Algeria 5 Mar

NC0503084589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Algiers this morning on a 3-day visit to Algeria. His excellency stated that he will convey a written message from President Husni Mubarak to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid which expresses the deep relations between the two countries and the hope for further development of these relations and of bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the visit will be a chance to discuss all bilateral, regional, and international issues with Algerian officials. He added that the visit emphasizes the importance of reaching agreement and understanding with fraternal Algeria within the scope of Arab cooperation. He praised the strong ties between the two countries.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's announcement that he rejects holding an international conference, his excellency said that the Israeli prime minister's position is known. Dr 'Abd al-Majid stressed that holding an international conference which is accepted by the whole world is the only way to resolve the Middle East crisis. He remarked that Egypt's stand on the need to hold such a conference is clear.

People's Assembly Committees Approve ACC

NC0703124989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1144 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—The People's Assembly Arab Affairs and Economic Affairs Committees held a joint meeting today under chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee Dr Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat. Both committees approved the [ACC] Arab Cooperation Council agreement signed in Baghdad on 16 February. Members of both committees, opposition and majority, welcomed the ACC agreement, stressing that it is a serious and practical step and in line with realities to boost joint Arab action. They said that the grouping is a goal and a means to embody Arab influence and to achieve progress and economic prosperity for the Arab countries' people. [passage omitted]

Islamic Fundamentalists Freed, Meet With Shaykhs

JN0503195789 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[By Nizar Qandil]

[Text] Fourty youths belonging to Islamic fundamentalist groups were released from custody yesterday and immediately taken to the Higher Islamic Affairs Council for a meeting attended by Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub and Shaykhs Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi and Muhammad al-Ghazali.

The awqaf minister said the nation needs the youths to support Islamic activity. The state with all its resources stands with the youths, he said. The minister added: We are ready to organize meetings with leading Muslim scholars in Egypt to discuss all issues freely and objectively.

The minister called on Shaykhs al-Sha'rawi and al-Ghazali to arrange mass meetings with youths to explain correct Islamic concepts. States, he said, are not made by slogans, but by sound thought.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali said that Islam does not permit political assassination under any slogans. The enemies of Islam, he said, want to pin such a label on Muslims using some ignorant people.

Shaykh al-Ghazali warned against dragging Islam into battles that it will lose, because these battles are worthless. He urged youths to focus on learning and achieving before anything else.

He said: Prudence demands that we first begin by educating ourselves. It is now unwise to amputate the hands of thieves. Legislation requires great wisdom and the establishment of a new Islamic society.

Shaykh al-Ghazali said that he has learned through his work in Islamic preaching over the past 50 years three important things. These are contained in the following saying by the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him: Fear God wherever you are. Follow an evil act with a good act and you destroy it. Deal with people politely and with good manners.

He addressed the youths saying: You must follow the Prophet by showing wisdom and preaching. The mistakes made over 5 centuries, he said, cannot be erased in 6 months. We have to work seriously and honestly.

Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi then spoke, stressing that the current Islamic tide is a healthy phenomenon indicating that any human ruling system, whether from East or West, is unconvincing to us.

The retreat of communism and capitalism, he said, means that both of them are going to try to reach the right point in the middle—namely, Islam. This fact is proved by the fact that both systems have referred to some Islamic cases to apply their rulings.

Shaykh al-Sha'rawi stressed the need to keep abreast of current events in the world and called on Muslims to absorb what unites them and avoid what separates them. It is enough for Muslims to meet together in their belief in God and work accordingly, putting aside other matters of disagreement.

He told the youths: If you knew how our rulers sacrifice to secure our daily bread, not one of you would question their faithfulness. They try their best to secure this for all the people. Islam, he said, categorically rejects political assasinations. Giving yourself the right to assassinate others, he explained, demands that you give others the right to assassinate you. Islam does not allow our enemies to assassinate us, he said.

Shaykh al-Sha'rawi called for an Islamic community overwhelmed by love and cooperation, as these constitute the only means for goodness and reform. The doors of 'ulema in Egypt are open to everyone, he said. He added that he personally is ready to receive anybody who has any questions about Islam.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses General People's Congress

LD0603171589 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 0820 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Proceedings of the General People's Congress in Banghazi—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted on general debate among GPC delegates] [Al-Qadhdhafi] Execution may be punishment for an ordinary crime. [Addressing a delegate] What did you mean when you said that the people's court issues death sentences? Does this mean that there could be death sentences only regarding the issues and law you mentioned, or would there be other issues to which a death sentence applies? What about the points you raised on the death sentence? This comes within the jurisdiction of criminal law, the ordinary courts. What does the people's court have to do with it? [passage omitted]

You could say, for instance, that political crimes are punishable by death, while there is no death sentence for other crimes—premeditated murder, murder during robbery. If this is decided, then the death sentence would be for political crimes only, because the people's court deals with political crimes. What you suggest would then make sense. This would be restricting the death sentence to just political crimes. [passage omitted]

There are Libyan citizens who are avoiding national defense duties. We should deal with this by law. They avoid the service while enjoying rights. They avoid defending the homeland—this is a fact. There are thousands of people avoiding national duties. If you want to execute them, do so. If you do not want to execute them, then mention this in the law, saying that they have the right to avoid defending their country. But in this case, we should identify these people and deprive them of the benefits and rights of citizens of this country. We know that this is not very popular, but it should be made law.

Personally, I go around to all those in the Army, in the Jamahiri Guard and those in the security units, who have now started to assume the people's armed duties. We go to them and give them a choice, according to the law: Those who want to stay can do so, and those who do not want to are free to leave. This is put on record. If someone says that he does not want to defend the homeland, that is it—he relinquishes his rights in the homeland. That is why no Libyan now can say rights and (?nothing else) [words indistinct]

Everything should be clear. If you are commissioned to defend the homeland for 12 months, you should remain 12 months. If you try to escape, you should be tried according to this law. If you cannot do so, then from the beginning you should relinquish your rights and duties. If you relinquish your duties and try to escape them, then you also relinquish your rights. This is the greatest degree of freedom.

This is the first time in the world such freedom is given. There is no compulsion. Who should compel whom? And for the benefit of whom? If anything, it would be for the benefit of the homeland; and this homeland is for all of us. If anyone does not want to share citizenship and its benefits with us and defend it, he is free to do so. Any Libyan who wants to write that he is Italian, let him do so. He can write and say: I am not an Arab and or a Muslim, but I am Italian and I worship the cross. Are we really keen on making him enter heaven or not putting a church on his head [as heard]? Let him build a church on his head and walk with it. This is freedom. We have nothing to do with him.

[Words indistinct] who said so? Even God did not torture the unbelievers. They are living happily, and are still backward. Everyone for himself. Think only of yourself. Do your duties and enjoy your rights. If you are a Muslim and you are told that you will go to heaven, that is it. What are you worried about? The others are none of your business, whether they go to a mosque or anywhere else. Who gave you a licence to convert them to Islam? Who told you to show a document?

Can any one show me a license signed by Jibril, Muhammad, Israfeel [names of angels in the Koran], or even God? Is there anyone who can show us such a paper and say this signature is from heaven, and say that he is delegated to show us the affairs of our religion and our duties and to enlist us in Islam? If he can show us such a paper, then we will listen to him. But if he has no such paper, he can still say he has the Prohpet Muhammad and his book, and that we should act according to religion; then everyone is free.

What is all this injustice? They even try to force the people with weapons. They are trying to force them into Islam. [words indistinct] if you have a weapon, the other also has a weapon which was given to him according to the armed people's law. You can decide to fight in the street. If someone tries to impose something on us, we fight him—without conspiring, without sabotage, without ignorance, and without exploitation of religion or patriotism or anything. [passage omitted]

It must be made clear that this law [on the freedom of man] benefits only he who follows peaceful methods, even when committing offenses. But anyone behaving illegally must not hope to benefit from this law. For instance, if you use force you find yourself outside the law, force can be used against you.

No one should believe that they can use force, terrorize people and do anything, and then benefit from this law. You do not benefit from this law if you use force. For instance, if someone gets up in this room and starts to shoot a gun, should we wait to ask permission from the public prosecution in accordance with the law? This is not possible. Such a person would be killed immediately before he kills some of you and attacks us.

If we catch him, should we consider clement methods and things like that? No, in this very hall such a person should be quickly and blatantly beaten up so that he will tell who gave him the gun, in case there is somebody else with a gun or a bomb. No clement methods would be used. If he constitutes a danger, such a person must be killed immediately. [repetitive passage omitted]

But if someone comes up and says: down with the people's power or I want to rule or I am beter than you, the people and so on—such a person must not be beaten up. In fact, he may be better than somebody else. Perhaps he is a prophet and we do not know him. We let him come forward and we listen to him, and we give him an opportunity to speak about his project, his program. Perhaps he will bring us the paradise we want, the terrestrial paradise. We give such people the freedom to speak, even if he insults us. He would thus have served a peaceful purpose, without [words indistinct]. [repetitive passage omitted]

[Unidentified delegate] Brother leader, concerning the huge number of those who have switched from production to private retail trade, we are now facing a great problem. Even those productive professionals have now become private businessmen. Within 1, 2, 3 years we will all become merchants and consumers and we will not be producing. Brother leader, along 100 km of road you find hundreds of private distributors. I ask for a reduction in the existing number. Everyone will turn into merchants, and this is a dangerous phenomenon. Also the high prices, brother leader, are four or five times the normal prices and all people are complaining about that.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have heard from the revolutionary control that there were even cases before the revolutionary court until they were before the people's court when the revolutionary courts were abolished. Is the general secretary of the farmers' congress with us? Was not he with us yesterday? Where is he now [voices from the floor say "he was not there"] Has he gone to seize companies? [laughter] He might be in the next hall. [passage omitted]

By God, he should have been here. They say there was a case before the revolutionary court, and when these courts were replaced by the people's court, the case was referred to it.

The farmers' congresses were exploiting certain things at the expense of the farmers. Some farmers brought suit against the congress charging that the congressional secretariat and those around it were taking those agricultural equipments mentioned yesterday and also the tractors, seeds, and pesticides, etc. for their private use and benefit. Naturally this is a big crime, it is treason, because they are entrusted with distributing these things to the farmers.

What I fear from this observation is the fact that yesterday we told the agricultural equipment and fodder companies to distribute these materials and if this accusation is true, we are apprehensive that all of these materials have not been used to the benefit the farmers. Do you have cases of this kind Dr (Midhwi)?

[Dr (Midhwi)] There are cases, brother leader. Cases used to come before the permanent revolutionary court—109 cases. We have received these files and upon examining the court's jurisdiction—naturally we are limited by Article 9 of the People's Court Law which defines the specific jurisdiction of the court—we found that the majority of those cases were administrative cases or cases within the competence of other circles.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What did you do?

[Dr (Midhiw)] For example, some of the farmers' cases we referred to the competent authorities such as the follow-up body, other bodies.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The people's monitoring—have you got prior knowledge of this story?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, there are many irregularities in the farmers's congresses, as the farmers' congresses undertook, among its tasks, the importation of some of the requirements—importing animal fodder from abroad and reselling it to the farmers. This is due to the financial and administrative indiscipline in the farmers' congresses. In other words, they did not have the financial and administrative apparatus, documents and papers were lost, and there were no records of the revenues and expenditures in these congresses.

We have submitted to the people's congresses a report on the farmers' and vocational congresses and the irregularities we noticed in these congresses. We found that these congresses engaged in trading. They sold things unrelated to the farmers' congresses—for example, someone would sell a car to another party.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Importation is no longer permitted to them, because they import and trade. [as heard] Why did you not say these things yesterday?

[Speaker] O leader, yesterday I did ask to speak on this subject. The farmers' congresses, actually, are unable to serve the farmers while they practice trading activity.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Well, what is the task of these congresses?

[Speaker] We have stated that the associations should perform this role.

[Another unidentified speaker] Frankly, the reality of the matter is that those at the helm of the secretariats of the vocational congresses are not farmers. They are not farmers and this could be the case in other vocational congresses. Therefore, those at the top of the vocational congresses have one aim, which is their personal gain, without giving any consideration to the needs of the farmers' congress. This is a very big problem.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What problem? If what has been said was true, the farmers' congress are capable of correcting this situation. [passage omitted]

The other observation I want to make is this: I have heard, according to the resolutions, that all congresses have adopted the barter system. All secretaries of the municipal congresses say that the basic people's congresses have adopted barter. This is a serious decision, if it means the kind of barter that we know. Yesterday this was stressed with regard to foreign trade. Well, you have to understand what it means.

Cuba is a friendly country, is that right? Yes. It has sugar, and according to this decision we would trade with another commodity so that it will provide us with sugar. We could give it wool in exchange for sugar. This is the meaning of the decision that you have made. Yes. Well, tomorrow sugar wil not arrive because the wool was not delivered. Yes, that is the case. We have to be clear. This is a serious decision and it should be defined and explained right now. We regard it as a very serious step within the Libyan economy—within Libyan foreign economic policy—to be dealing with friendly and fraternal countries on the basis of barter. This means we have to produce goods to give to those countries so that they will give us goods that they produce. Did you understand, Professor Omar? [repetitive passage omitted]

The other observation is this: we have said that the jamahiri sports system has failed. Therefore, from now on there is no official authority responsible for sports. For some years we had people's committees for jamahiri sports, 1,000 officials for jamahiri sports, and some 8 or 10 million [units not specified] a year for jamahiri sports. How much is the budget?

[Unidentified speaker] Ten million.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Ten million a year when the Jamahiri sports were nonexistent, and even the educational institutions were without any sports activity. [passage omitted]

I have another suggestion to put forth to the General People's Congress, as it is within its competence, that a number of Libyan Institutions abroad are not functioning properly because they belong to authorities with no foreign responsibilities. My opinion is that they all belong to one area. In other words, all activities abroad should be placed in one basket, including missions, companies, banks and people's bureaus. All should belong to the Foreign Liaison Bureau. [repetitive passage omitted]

I have noticed that, in the name of the economic crisis and foreign exchange and all these things like spending sparingly—I would not say austerity, we have not reched that stage yet—this has come at the expense of the poor. For instance, I found that we now have people still living in huts or in camelhair tents. They are to be found in Mizdim and in Sirte. We still have such things after 20 years, and they have not got houses, whereas a five-star hotel is built somewhere. [passage omitted]

Those who live in the poor and needy regions are bearing the brunt. They are perhaps patient, they do not speak up. You do not see them. I have toured the country and I find it unreasonable that these poor people should carry the burden.

Separate the strategic things: say, for instance, this institution is for manufacturing satellites, for desalination of sea water, for manufacturing atoms for peaceful or even for military purposes. This is not prohibited here. Whoever wants to manufacture a weapon, let him do so, according to their efforts. The Israelis have manufactured nuclear arms and no one told them not to. They have made chemical weapons and no one told them not to. But we have built a pharmaceutical plant in Al-Rabitah and a hue and cry was raised worldwide, and a world war nearly broke out over it.

The Israelis are now setting up plants for bacteriological warfare to fight the Arabs, to exterminate the Arab race, and no one told them: stop these dangerous weapons. They made a satellite and no one protested; they made a rocket to launch the satellite and no one said no. They have made missiles with a 4,000-km range carrying nuclear warheads targetted at all Arab cities, and no one protested against them. Therefore, it is up to you and your efforts.

If you can manufacture a nuclear bomb, do it, and no one will object. If somebody objects, then you say to him: First destroy your own nuclear bombs. If anybody can manufacture chemical weapons, let him do that. It is not prohibited, because they are all manufacturing them. If anybody can manufacture bacteriological weapons, let him do that.

What matters is that you do not commit aggression with it against others; do not use it first. Besides, any state, if an enemy enters its territory, is free to use all means of destruction against it. [passage omitted]

Iranian Majlis Member Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0503164789 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has condemned British author Salman Rushdie for profaning Islam and Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him).

In his meeting today with Iran's Majlis Foreign Committee head, Hojjat ol-eslam Sadeq Khalkhali, in Tripoli, Al-Qadhdhafi said "the Indian born apostate has committed an unpardonable crime."

Col. al-Qadhdhafi termed 'admirable' the Islamic Republic's stand against publication of 'The Satanic Verses' and lauded Imam Khomeyni's fatwah for execution of the author and publishers of the blasphemous book.

If Muslims were united, he said, global arrogance would not dare to blaspheme Islamic sanctities the way the apostate had the audacity to write, he said.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi considered the publication of the book a Zionist-imperialist plot and urged Muslims to resist it.

Placing emphasis on Rushdie's executing, he said "Islam does not forgive apostasy."

In Islam, all five schools of jurisprudence in Islam are unanimous on death penalty for apostasy, and Imam Khomeyni's just fatwah passed February 14, has been widely acclaimed by the planet's over one billion Muslims.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali is currently in Libya at the head of a delegation.

JANA Report on Visit

LD0603174989 Tripoli JANA in English 1628 GMT 6 Mar 89

["Leader of Revolution Received Khalkhali"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Mirrikh [March] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution received the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Shura Assembly [Majlis] in Iran who is currently on a visit to great Jamahiriyah to attend the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people commemorating the 12th anniversary of the establishment of people's power and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history, apart from attending the sessions of the General People's Congress.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD0703092789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Mar (JANA)—Sadeq Khalkhali, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Iranian Majlis, and his delegation left Tripoli last night after a visit to the great Jamahiriyah.

Sadeq Khalkhali made a statement to JANA in which he expressed his and his delegation's pleasure in visiting the great Jamahiriyah. He reiterated that the Iranian people stand by the Libyan Arab people in their brave confrontation of all imperialist conspiracies and threats against their freedom and dignity.

Sudan's Al-Mahdi Arrives, Met by Jabir

LD0703133589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of fraternal Sudan, arrived at Banin International Airport in Al-Bayan al-'Awwil-Banghazi this morning on a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir welcomed brother Sadiq al-Mahdi and his delegation. [passage omitted].

Afghan Ambassador Congratulates Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0603213789 Tripoli JANA in English 1612 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al Mirrikh [March] 6, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received the congratulations from the Ambassador of Afghanistan to Great Jamahirya Mohammad Naim on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the proclamation of the people's power and the first jamahiryan history.

Also, the ambassador expressed the congratulations of the Afghani government and the people and the members of embassy on the glorious occasion.

The ambassador lauded in his congratulations the continuous efforts of the leader of the revolution in support of the cause of peace and freedom the world over. He praised the declaration setting up the Arab Maghreb Union.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Greeting to Moroccan Ruler

LD0303192489 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Mirrikh [March] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution has sent congratulations to King Hassan II on the Throne Day. It reads:

To: King Hassan II of sisterly Moroccan Kingdom,

On the occasion of the Throne Day in your sisterly country, it pleases me to extend personally and on behalf of the people of Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah sincerest congratulations and best wishes entreating Allah, most eminent and almighty, to make this occasion recur to yourself with the enjoyment of good health and happiness wishing the Arab people in the Moroccan Kingdom progress and welfare. May Allah enable us all to achieve the overall Arab unity which represents the sole and genuine safeguarding to liberate the usurped land and protect the integrity, happiness and future of the nation.

Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Defense Council, Mubarak Remarks

EA0503172789 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, has announced that he will continue on the course of responsibility now that he has received assurances through the head of state's council about the commitment of the Armed Forces to constitutional legitimacy and its institutions. [passage omitted]

He said that some divisions affected the question of peace during the last stage. It had been possible to reach a formula around which the internal front could unite in connection with the cause of peace. Mr al-Mahdi announced his agreement with the appeal of the Bergen meeting in Norway concerning peace in Sudan. He said the Bergen appeal will help prepare for the cause of peace after agreement has been reached on it inside the country.

He stressed the need to expand the National Defense Council so that it includes from among the military personnel the chief of general staff and his deputies in addition to the commander in chief and the commanders of the Infantry, the Navy, and the Air Force. His excellency stressed his commitment to the participation of the modern forces [al-quwa al-hadithah] in the formation of a new government. The form of participation will be decided on when the new government is set up.

The prime minister clarified that the recent events in the country were a real victory for democracy and Sudan in spite of the confrontations and exchanges which had occurred. He praised the Sudanese people for calling on him to continue his national responsibilities in the coming stage.

He expressed his regret at the remarks made by President Husni Mubarak recently and said that what President Mubarak had said concerning him was not appropriate to a president of a government elected by the people without terrorism or coercion and which represented the will of the people.

Mr al-Mahdi said there was still a segment of our people in Egypt who insisted on refusing to understand the people of Sudan. He said that this segment had failed to understand the biggest of the revolutions of the last century in Sudan: the October revolution and the Rajab uprising. It is the same segment which misunderstood the events of 1989.

He referred to the need for this stage to evaluate the eternal relations between Sudan and Egypt. He said that the brotherhood charter came to rid us of the forms of relations which existed with the May regime and to maintain the special relationship between the two countries. Mr al-Mahdi clarified the need for the presence of two sides so that brotherhood could prevail. It cannot happen in a vacuum. He hoped the relationship between the two fraternal countries would be within the framework of common objectives.

MENA Reports on 'Political Crisis' in Khartoum

NC0603184289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 6 Mar (MENA)—The political crisis in Sudan has worsened once again amid various reactions by the Armed Forces, political parties, and trade unions to the news conference that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi held in Khartoum yesterday. In his news conference, Al-Mahdi declared that he had decided not to tender his resignation and said he would start consultations to form a broadbased government in Sudan.

The political crisis reached a peak today when Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], refused to meet with a delegation from the Al-Ummah Party composed of Energy Minister Al-Zahawi Malik and party Political Bureau member 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Rahman Najdallah, who had a message for him from Al-Mahdi.

The MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that Al-Mahdi's message to Al-Mirghani included a request for a meeting between the two later this evening. The correspondent also learned that, regarding yesterday's statements by Al-Mahdi, the DUP believes that what was agreed upon before should be implemented; namely, that the government must submit its resignation before embarking on negotiations to form a new government and that Al-Mahdi must submit a written official apology for his offensive remarks about Egypt and the DUP during his news conference yesterday.

In a statement issued following an urgent meeting of its Political Bureau and parliamentary representatives, the DUP announced its rejection of all that was said at Al-Mahdi's news conference yesterday. The DUP described Al-Mahdi's remarks during his news conference as a violation of the agreement signed at the presidential palace 2 days ago by the political forces in Sudan on the program of the new government.

The DUP meeting, chaired by party leader 'Uthman al-Mirghani, lasted for 6 hours. It was decided during the session that the Political Bureau should remain in open session until a detailed statement is issued this evening or tomorrow morning, Tuesday. The statement is expected to express the party's viewpoint on the current situation as well as on yesterday's remarks by Al-Mahdi, which caused the political crisis in Sudan to flare up once again.

Political observers in Khartoum believe the crisis has taken a more ferocious turn since 60 representatives of political parties and trade unions signed a draft agreement on the program for a new broadbased government 2 days ago.

In another development, a joint meeting of the DUP's Political Bureau, led by party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, and the parties of the Sudanese African Bloc, headed by Liaba James Sorrour, leader of the Sudanese African opposition, was held today. The purpose was to adopt a common stand on Al-Mahdi's remarks at his news conference yesterday.

'Uthman 'Umar, member of the DUP's Political Bureau, has stated that Al-Mahdi's comments were completely contrary to the program for the future Sudanese government signed by the Sudanese political forces and parties, particularly with regard to the article concerning the pursuance of a balanced foreign policy with all the fraternal and friendly countries, without polarization. Furthermore, he disregarded the Sudanese peace initiative, failing to mention it at all, 'Umar said. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in a press statement he issued today, Al-Mahdi affirmed that no party will participate in the next Sudanese government unless it signs the phased working program for the next government, which was prepared by the State Council and signed by the Sudanese political forces and parties.

It should be noted in this regard that the Islamic Front, which refused to sign this program, wants to participate in the next Sudanese government without signing the program. Observers think that this could create another crisis between Al-Mahdi and Dr Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic Front.

Al-Mahdi Accepts Resignations of Ministers

EA0603202389 Khartoum SUNA in French 1525 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will travel to Tripoli on 7 March for a 24-hour visit to Libya where he is to address the Libyan General People's Congress, a communique issued today by the cabinet secretariat general announced.

According to the same communique, Mr al-Mahdi has received the resignations of his ministers and ordered them to continue with their duties until the resignations are accepted by the Supreme Council.

The communique also said that commitment to the transitional program of the next government, signed on 4 March, constitutes the base for participation in the new government and that an intensive dialogue is in progress to arrive at the final form of the government as soon as possible.

Leaves for Libya 7 Mar

EA0703115289 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Mar—The prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, left here today for Tripoli on a 24-hour long visit to Libya. The premier will address, during the visit, the People's General Congress in Libya.

Al-Mirghani: DUP Committed to Political Program

EA0703121889 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Mar—The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, has confirmed his party's commitment to the programme signed by the political parties and trade unions and called for the formation of a broad-based government. Al-Mirghani told the daily AL-AYYAM published here today that the DUP would reject any amendments or addition to the programme signed last Sunday. He added that signing the programme would be the sole condition for participation in the coming government.

SPLA Captures Garrison Town of Jummayzah

EA0603170689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Another garrison town, the fourth in a week, falls to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]. Jummayzah [55 miles north of Juba] fell to the SPLA forces of Central South Sudan Zonal Command on 4th March 1989. The enemy evacuated the town without a fight following an SPLA warning that the Army of the old Sudan must evacuate all of Bor, Jummayzah, and Mongalla within 7 days. SPLA forces of Central South Sudan Zonal Command are now in firm control of Jummayzah and advancing on Mongalla.

The enemy that was in Jummayzah crossed the River Nile in efforts to reach Terakeka. The forces of Infijar are closely monitoring the movement of this force in the toj [colloquial for swampy lands]. The Jummayzah garrison carried whatever they could and threw heavy support weapons into the River Nile. Jummayzah falls midway between Bor and Mongalla on the River Nile.

With Jummayzah gone, the warning for Bor and Mongalla still stands. Bor and Mongalla are not stronger than Torit and if they do not leave they will be overrun and suffer unnecessary destruction. With the fall of Torit, Nimule, Farajok, and Liria, the SPLA has sufficient more than enough [as heard] forces to overrun Mongalla and Bor in a matter of minutes. The commanders of Bor and Mongalla must take this warning with great seriousness. They must not hope for rescue from Juba.

Juba itself is effectively pinned down and has no capability to rescue Bor or Mongalla. No rescue can come from Malakal either. The area is still flooded and SPLA forces will attack Malakal within the next few days. Objectively, Bor and Mongalla must be evacuated to avoid destruction.

The official spokesman of the SPLA regretted the throwing of heavy artillery and other support weapons into the river at Jummayzah. These are expensive weapons that cost the Sudanese people precious hard currency, whether they are in the hands of the SPLA or the Army of the old Sudan. We need these weapons for the defense of the unity and territorial integrity of the new united Sudan after this war.

It is absurd for the Sadiq-Turabi government to announce only a few days ago that they are getting from abroad $250 million worth of tanks and artillery and for the soldiers to be throwing similar weapons into the river at Jummayzah. This is unpatriotic and wasteful to the nation. If they do not want these weapons to fall into the hands of the SPLA, the movement is prepared to give them passage to wherever they want to evacuate.

SPLA Forces 'Tightening' Siege of Juba

EA0603171789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Meanwhile, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces of the "Bright Star" campaign, Infijar and Shakkush, are closing in on Juba and tightening the siege on Juba from four directions. SPLA forces are within 5 km of Juba.

In this connection, the official spokesman of the SPLA expressed satisfaction at the measures being taken by the Army commander, Equatoria Ministry Area, Major General PSC [Passed Staff College] Allison Mangaya, towards the civil population of Juba town. It is to be recalled that Maj Gen PSC Allison Mangaya yesterday over Radio Juba intimated the imminent fall of Juba and urged the civilian population of Juba to leave the town to avoid unnecessary casualties in cross-fire and advised them to use four designated exit points.

The SPLA advises the population of Juba town to heed the advice of Maj Gen PSC Allison Mangaya. As a military man and commander of Equatoria Military Area, Allison Mangaya knows full well the danger facing Juba and the imminent fall of the town to the SPLA. The movement will do everything possible to ensure that civilian casualties are avoided.

AFP: Rebels Shell Juba

AB0603093089 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Mar (AFP)—Rebel forces in southern Sudan have shelled the regional capital, Juba, wounding several people and destroying buildings, as government forces braced themselves for an expected rebel offensive against the city, the Khartoum daily, AL-AYYAM reported Monday.

Quoting military sources, the paper said the rebel Colonel John Garang had concentrated his troops near Juba after his Sudan People's Liberation Movement warned that Juba would be its next target. The SPLM says it controls virtually all Equatoria Province in southeastern Sudan after seizing three key garrison towns over the past three weeks.

Sudanese Government forces had launched a big "mopping up" operation aimed at rebel positions around Juba, AL-AYYAM said. The paper said 350 regular soldiers, routed at Torit Army Camp eight days ago, had fled into Uganda. AL-AYYAM said the Sudanese government had asked Uganda to help in bringing the men home.

The SPLM meanwhile has asked Uganda to return two tanks taken over the border by fleeing Sudanese soldiers.

Anti-Rushdie Demonstration at British Embassy

EA0303215989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Mar—A group of Muslim fundamentalists demonstrated here today after Friday prayers against the publication of Salman Rushdie's novel "Satanic Verses". The demonstrators gathered near the British Embassy chanting slogans against the British authorities and the book writer, the Indian-born Salman Rushdie. They called for the execution of the writer.

Kuwait

Further on Yasir 'Arafat's Official Visit

Addresses Rally

JN0603173089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has said that he is ready to return to the 1981 agreement on a cease-fire between the PLO and the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon but in accordance with Palestinian terms.

During a popular rally in Kuwait last night, Abu 'Ammar rejected the idea that the intifadah [uprising] came spontaneously or in isolation from the PLO. He affirmed that the intifadah began in full coordination between the Palestinian citizens in the occupied homeland and the PLO leadership outside the occupied homeland. He added that the intifadah should continue and that it should be supported in order to continue it. He denied that the Palestine National Council's 19th session in Algiers made any concessions to the Zionist enemy. He also rejected accusations that the PLO is panting after dialogue with the United States.

Makes Departure Statement

LD0603184389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1720 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said here Monday that he sensed at his meeting with his highness the amir full cooperation and support to the Palestinians in the occupied territories and their uprising.

In a statement to KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY on departure at the end of a four-day visit to Kuwait that he briefed his hignesss the amir on the circumstances surrounding the Palestinian cause, including the results of the meeting he had in Cairo with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the message he received from the Chinese leadership.

He also said that he briefed his highness on the efforts being exerted with the aim of uniting Arab ranks and the efforts of the Arab seven-man commitee to support the Palestinian uprising and the call for a meeting between the Arab countries bordering Israel which are Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the PLO.

He described his meeting with his highness the amir as fraternal, constructive and fruitful and said he assured his highness that the struggle of the Palestinian people would continue until the end of the occupation and the hoisting of the Palestinian flag on Jerusalem.

The PLO chairman also said he met with his highness the crown prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah for a second time during his visit to Kuwait and discussed with him the same topics in detail.

He expressed gratitude for Kuwait, its amir, government and people for the supportive stance to the Palestinian people's struggle.

Answering a question whether he expects positive results for the visit to Israel by British Foreign Office Minister William Waldgrave, 'Arafat said the visit represents part of the efforts the European countries are carrying out.

He added that the British effort emphasizes the interest of the international public opinion, including that of Europe and the permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council, in speeding up the process aiming at holding an international confernce on peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat was seen off on departure to Qatar by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Ahmad al-Jasir, member of Fatah Central Committee Salim al-Za'nun and the ambassador of Palestine to Kuwait 'Awni Battash and 'Abd al-Karim Abu-Ghayd the [passage indistinct].

Official Meets With Bulgarian Counterpart

LD0603182189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1556 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA)—Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin met here Monday with Bulgarian deputy foreign minister who is carrying a message from Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov addressed to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

An authoritative source at the foreign ministry told KUNA that talks between the two sides tackled bilateral relations and reviewed activities and role of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and its upcoming meeting, due to take place in Saudi Arabia at the level of foreign ministers.

Asked on the issue of Muslims in Bulgaria, the source said the issue is a common concern of the OIC and Bulgaria. He indicated that a fact-finding committee working on the issue would submit its report to the upcoming conferenc of the OIC.

The Bulgarian envoy, who arrived here last Saturday, is due to leave here later today for Jeddah for talks with OIC Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid.

He is due back here Tuesday evening for talks with Shaykh Sabah during which he would hand him a written message from his Bulgarian counterpart.

Qatar

PLO's 'Arafat Pays Official Visit to Qatar
JN0603191789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1828 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Doha, 6 Mar (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Doha this evening on a visit to Qatar within his current tour of a number of Arab countries.

He was received upon arrival at Doha International Airport by Khalid ibn 'Abdallah al-'Atiyyah, Qatari minister of public works; Yasin al-Sharif, the State of Palestine's ambassador to Qatar; Palestine National Council members; and Qatar's Palestinian Embassy staff.

Upon arrival, 'Arafat stated that during the visit he will inform Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani of all the issues and developments dealing with pushing the peace process on all Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

He said in a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY (QNA) that the PLO will take numerous steps to push the peace process forward. He pointed out that the aim of his current tour is to establish a unified Arab stand on this issue by holding the international peace conference under the supervision of the United Nations and with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members and all parties to the conflict in the region, including the PLO.

He mentioned that the meetings he held recently with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the European tripartite committee, and British officials, in addition to the message he received recently from the Chinese leadership after U.S. President George Bush's visit to Beijing, are considered a part of these efforts.

'Arafat referred to the PLO leadership's action among the brothers and friends and the efforts of the seven-member committee on the Arab foreign ministers' level to support the intifadah [uprising], affirming that all Arab, Palestinian, and international efforts are moving in this direction.

'Arafat denied in his statement to QNA that there are any American threats on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. He said: There are only U.S. points of view. Every party has the right to express its opinion honestly on any proposed issue.

He also denied that recent U.S. statements described Palestinian fedayeen operations inside occupied Palestine as terrorism.

The Palestinian leader is accompanied on his visit to Qatar by a delegation that includes PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, information adviser Bassam Abu Sharif, and Arab affairs adviser Sulayman al-Shurafa.

Amir Receives 'Arafat
JN0703140089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1257 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Doha, 7 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, today received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Khalid ibn 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah, Qatari public works minister; Sulayman al-Shurafa, 'Arafat's advisor for Arab affairs; and Yasin al-Sharif, Palestinian ambassador in Doha.

QNA said the talks dealt with the situation on the Palestinian, Arab, and international scenes and the important and historic stage that the Palestine question is currently experiencing, especially after the escalation of the Zionist oppression against the valiant Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

The talks also dealt with means of supporting and escalating the intifadah so that the Palestinian people can attain their legitimate national rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their soil.

'Arafat informed the amir of Qatar about the latest contacts on the Palestine question, including his recent talks with the Soviet foreign minister, the message he received from the Chinese leadership, the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and the considerate European stand toward Palestinian rights.

QNA also said that 'Arafat thanked the amir, government, and people of Qatar for their firm positive stand supporting the Arab central cause and the rights of the Palestinian people.

United Arab Emirates

Support Voiced for Death Order for Rushdie
LD0603110389 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 6, IRNA—The United Arab Emirates has voiced support for Imam Khomeyni's death order against Salman Rushdie.

UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah backed the imam's fatwa [religious decree] in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Mostafa Haeri-Fumani who delivered a message from his Iranian counterpart Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Sunday regarding 'The Satanic Verses.'

Rushdie was an apostate and deserved the imam's verdict 'Abdallah said.

He added that his country would vigorously raise the issue in the upcoming session of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Riyadh, Saudia Arabia.

Velayati referred to the dangers threatening the Islamic world and called for a coordinated act by Muslim countries to confront this latest Western plot.

He also pointed out that the issue, and ways of encountering it must be given top priority in the OIC meeting.

'Abdallah told the Iranian ambassador that the OIC must come up with ways of encountering the novel.

The main reason for such plots against Islam was the lack of unity among Islamic countries, he added

President Shares View

LD0603131289 Tehran IRNA in English 1246 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 6, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i's message calling for action against 'The Satanic Verses' was submitted to his United Arab Emirates counterpart Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan by visiting head of the Islamic propagation organization here today.

In reply Shaykh Zayid said his country shared the same view with the Islamic Republic on this issue.

The Muslim world should stand firm against such blasphemous moves, and with our unity and coordination prevent their repetition, he said.

Referring to the dangerous dimensions of the blasphemous novel, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati told the UAE leader that unity and solidarity of the Muslim countries was the only way for countering such plots.

"Adoption of a powerful stance by the Islamic states against this plot which has targetted the holy religion of Islam is a must" Ayatollah Jannati stressed.

Shaykh Zayid said he had ordered experts to investigate the book and author Salman Rushdie's intentions.

Earlier the UAE foreign minister in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador expressed support for Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [religious decree] against Rushdie.

President Meets With Somali Counterpart

JN0703102589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 7 Mar (WAKH)—A session of official talks was held between United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre in Abu Dhabi today. [passage omitted]

Shahal Reveals 'Arafat Offer for Cease-Fire

TA0703092389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Mar 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Dan Petreanu]

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal indicated yesterday that PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has offered Israel a cease-fire on the Lebanese border, in a message communicated by the United States.

"I assume that there is such a request, through the U.S.," Shahal said in a briefing to Israeli reporters covering the territories. He added that, according to assessments he had received, "'Arafat is very eager for a cease-fire with Israel, and is trying to achieve one now."

Another ranking Labour minister, Gad Ya'aqobi, said yesterday that 'Arafat could be a legitimate negotiating partner if he were elected by Palestinians in the territories.

Both ministers have recently voiced their growing dissatisfaction with the present leadership of their party. Their comments yesterday indicated a deepening rift, too, over Labour's policy on peace and the Palestinians.

Shahal's remarks about 'Arafat's cease-fire proposal followed a statement by 'Arafat that Israel was negotiating with the PLO through the United Nations on a halt to terrorist raids from Lebanon.

In an interview with Kuwaiti newspaper editors published yesterday, 'Arafat offered to revive the 1981 cease-fire accord between Israel and the PLO in Southern Lebanon if Israel "Stops its raids in the region, ends its deportations of Palestinians, and stops using arms against the uprising."

Shahal said that, in a protocol he had received of a recent meeting between 'Arafat and a European politician, the PLO chief said that he had given his men in Lebanon orders to "cool things down, but not stop" attacks on Israel, since Israel was continuing its raids on Palestinian bases in the area.

Shahal proposed that Israel and the U.S. sign a strategic memorandum of understanding which would set guidelines for negotiations. These would comprise a written commitment by the PLO to recognize Israel; to unconditionally accept Security Council Resolution 242; to renounce terrorism in all its forms; and to unequivocally forgo demands for the "right of return" in order to end the conflict with Israel.

Shahal said he supported talks with any Palestinian who met such conditions, which would provide Israel with "insurance" against an erosion in the U.S. position.

The memorandum should also stipulate that an ultimate settlement should produce a "Jordanian-Palestinian political framework," which could take the form of a confederation, Shahal said. A Palestinian state without such links would be a source of tension in the region, he added.

The idea of setting up a Palestinian leadership in the territories as an alternative to the PLO was an "illusion" Shahal said. "Israel cannot find an alternative leadership—this has not happened anywhere, throughout history. In the end there will be a synthesis" between leaders inside and outside the territories, he said.

Shahal said the government should declare its readiness to exchange territories for peace, and, as an interim step, withdraw the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from the Gaza Strip and turn over the area to a Palestinian administration comprising incumbent mayors and local council heads.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday, Ya'aqobi said 'Arafat would be a legitimate negotiating partner if he won a democratic, supervised election in the territories.

The communications minister—who this week announced that he could run for the chairmanship of the Labour Party when an election is held for that post—sharply diverged from the official party line, which still rules out any negotiations with the PLO or its leaders.

Ya'aqobi said Labour "needs to seriously re-examine its views in the next few months," and charged that "the Jordanian option," which the party officially favours, "is no longer relevant." He pointed to the party's "anachronistic policies" on the peace issue as one of the main reasons for its continuing electoral decline.

Ministers 'Ezer Weizman and Mordekhay Gur have already stated that they favour a direct dialogue with the PLO.

While Ya'aqobi said he preferred the future of the territories to be negotiated with the residents there, because "it is with them that that we have to co-exist". He added that "it's ridiculous to think that we will determine who will represent them. There's a limit to the absurdity we can tolerate," he said.

In Ya'aqobi's view, "any Palestinian who accepts the finality of a peace treaty and Resolutions 242 and 338 can be a partner." Therefore, he would not oppose the candidacy in absentia of 'Arafat or any other PLO leader in the elections for a Palestinian delegation.

He refused to say whether he believed 'Arafat would be elected, but predicted that, "whoever is, will certainly be close to the PLO."

Ya'aqobi said he disagreed with Defence Minister Rabin about the need to end all violence before beginning the process of elections and negotiations. "This policy enables any child throwing a rock to interfere with the peace process."

Vice Premier Peres met yesterday with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj to discuss the situation in the territories, the peace process, and prospects for a political settlement, including a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

Frayj said later that he had brought up the economic crisis in the territories and the closure of schools, and proposed that all Palestinian administrative detainees be released.

PLO Showing 'Interest' in Meeting SHAS MK's

TA0703102089 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shizaf]

[Text] Under a heavy veil of secrecy, contacts were held last week to include SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset Members [MK's] in a Paris conference that will be attended by senior PLO members. The PLO leaders have evinced interest in maintaining a dialogue with Sephardic MK's from all factions.

The conference was initiated by French Jewish intellectuals. It will be held under the official sponsorship of the mayor of Paris. French Government officials are also involved in it.

The appeal to the MK's was relayed via Sephardic Israelis who are active in bodies supporting negotiations with the PLO. Last Wednesday, two activists and a French visitor conferred with SHAS MK Ya'ir Levi, asking him and other MK's from his party to participate in the meeting.

Levi did not rule out the conference, but explained that any meeting with Palestinians requires the approval of the Council of Torah Scholars. The three wanted to meet with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef to persuade him to permit the MK's to participate in the conference.

"The issue must be discussed both in movement bodies as well as in the Council. It is the Council that will have the final say," said Levi.

SHAS will probably recommend that the Council approve the meeting, provided that it is not considered official. Three of the six SHAS MK's support meetings with Palestinians.

Arens Urges Sarid Not To Meet With PLO

TA0603125689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens urged Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid not to travel to New York to attend a meeting with PLO people. According to Arens, meetings between MK's and PLO members aim to foil government policy by using methods that are illegitimate in a democratic country.

The foreign minister further told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that his trip to the United States at the end of this week should be viewed as an opportunity for an exchange of ideas between two new governments. Minister Arens also noted that he will meet with U.S. President George Bush.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 6 March, in a report on Arens' remarks in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, adds: "In the wake of Shevardnadze's speech at the Egyptian Parliament, the foreign minister said: If this is the Soviet stance, and if they do not wish to resume relations with us, it is very difficult to see how they can have a constructive role in the peace process in the region."]

Rabin: 'Terrorist' Infiltration Attempts Continue

TA0303201489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel continues to view terrorist organizations and those who send terrorists as being responsible for the infiltration attempts on the northern border. There is no truth to their declarations about a cessation of terrorist activities, as what is happening in the north proves again and again, Rabin said.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe said these remarks are contained in a letter the defense minister sent to Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff. In his letter, Minister Rabin also said that the success in foiling the attempted infiltration attempt yesterday was only one example in a long series of successes in preventing terrorist attacks by the Northern Command. Even if the media are no longer focused on that border, important work is being carried out there to maintain our security, the defense minister said.

'Toughening' U.S. Attitude on PLO Examined

TA0503101289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Mar 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Senior sources in Jerusalem last night expressed cautious satisfaction at the apparent toughening of U.S. attitudes towards the PLO. They do not, however, expect a total break in the U.S.-PLO dialogue in the very near future.

An aide to Prime Minister Shamir said that "we hope that the Americans—and in their wake the rest of the western world—are beginning to realize that Yasir 'Arafat cheated them. The fact that two major PLO organizations—Hawatimah's DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] and Habash's PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]—are continuing, and even increasing, their acts of terror should open U.S. eyes to the reality of the PLO."

In a telephone call on Friday, Foreign Ministry Assistant Director General Eytan Ben-Tzur told Minister Arthur Hughes at the U.S. Embassy that Israel was concerned about the infiltration attempts, which, he said, justify an American reassessment of the decision to talk to the PLO. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el said in a statement on Friday: "It is hard to understand how the PLO expects public opinion in Israel and the West to take statements about changes in policy seriously, while the commitment to stop terror is being ridiculed by continuous acts of terror at such frequency." A senior ministry official said that two months ago, the U.S. decision to engage in a dialogue with the PLO appeared to be "irreversible." Recent State Department statements, however, and especially the most recent one, indicate a growing skepticism in the administration which could lead to an eventual breakoff of the dialogue. [passage omitted]

Likud, Labor Ministers Decry U.S.-PLO Dialogue

TA0503131489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Likud and Labor ministers today criticized the U.S. Government's decision to continue the dialogue with the PLO in spite of the latest attempt by Nayif Hawatimah's group to penetrate the northern border, and in spite of Yasir 'Arafat's declaration that the attacks would continue so long as the Israel Air Force continues to bomb his bases in refugee camps. The ministers were speaking after today's Cabinet meeting. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] For the Likud ministers, without exception, the United States made a historic error by embarking on the dialogue with the PLO. Now Minister Ehud Olmert is saying to Washington: You made certain conditions—you spelled them out to Yasir 'Arafat—now they have been broken, and you should at least be consistent.

[Olmert] I hope that they will reach the inevitable conclusion that the PLO is not a partner, and they will make it public. I am not happy that they have not reached it yet, but I am confident that with the ample evidence that will be brought to their attention, they will have to reach that conclusion sooner than later.

[Katzenell] But even the Labor Party dove-like Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur expressed disappointment with Washington's refusal for the present to enforce its own rules with regard to the PLO.

[Tzur] I think that we have to continue to declare and to clarify that for us the PLO is still a terrorist group, and their behavior is according to what they behaved in the past; but I think it is also a lesson for Israel. We have to take initiatives and not only to say no.

[Katzenell] Whether 'Ezer Weizman shares the view of his Cabinet colleagues I cannot say. He was not at today's Cabinet meeting since he is on a trip abroad. [end recording]

Mitterrand Offer on PLO Mediation Rejected

TA0503105589 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 5 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Jerusalem-based political correspondent]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand proposed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that he secretly mediate between Shamir and the PLO, promising that the mediation would not be disclosed to anyone. It has been learned from authoritative sources that Mr Shamir rejected the offer.

In a talk between the two, Mitterrand said that he believed the PLO has undergone a change since the Geneva declaration and that "it is now possible to negotiate with the PLO in a way that would not be harmful to Israel."

He added that Israel's apprehension on the PLO can be allayed through the means of international agreements and guarantees that would have the approval of the superpowers and the United Nations. These guarantees would ensure that the Palestinian state would pose no threat to Israel. Mr Shamir, however, did not accept these premises.

In the same meeting with Mitterrand, Shamir said that according to his information residents of the territories are exerting pressure on 'Arafat to reach a dialogue with Israel on the latter's terms, and—as he had done to attain a dialogue with the United States—not to insist on his conditions. 'Arafat, however, is not yet ready for that. Mr Shamir said that although Israel will not talk with PLO representatives, it is ready to hold talks with representatives of residents of the territories without looking into their credentials.

Mr Shamir advised that Mitterrand abstain from meeting with 'Arafat. Mitterrand said, however, that, although he can avoid meeting 'Arafat in Paris, he cannot avoid such a meeting in Cairo.

IDF Plan To Expand Security Zone Denied

TA0703053089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The Soviet news agency NOVOSTI says that Israel is preparing a wide-ranging operation in Lebanon. In Beirut, the Christian government's prime minister called on the UN Security Council to foil any such operation.

A source in the defense minister's bureau this morning reiterated to our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the Israel Defense Forces have no intention of including more villages in the security zone, despite the fact that five villages in the area have expressed such a desire. [passage omitted]

SLA Soldier Wounded in Amal-Hizballah Ambush

TA0703131689 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 89 p 3

[Report by Yosi Leibowitz]

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was ambushed by terrorists in southern Lebanon. An APC belonging to the SLA was hit by RPG fire, wounding one soldier. The SLA troops returned fire.

The incident occurred 2 days ago but was reported only yesterday in a communique from southern Lebanon. The communique reported that the attack on the patrol was a joint Amal and Hizballah operation.

It should be pointed out that this is the first operation the two groups have pulled off together since signing the Syrian-sponsored cease-fire agreement.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 March in a report by Yehuda Tzur on page 2 adds that on 6 March, "an SLA patrol in the Tallusah area in the security zone's central sector discovered two mines that had been placed on the route. The APC stopped before reaching the mines, which were dismantled and taken away without any damage being caused.

"An explosive charge weighing 20 kg was found buried along the side of the road a short distance from the mines. It, too, was dismantled without any damage caused. An APC belonging to the SLA had set off a mine a few hours earlier, wounding a soldier."]

PRC Proposes Opening Tel Aviv Tourist Office

TA0703062489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Israeli Ambassador Yohanan Bein and his Chinese counterpart Li Luye met at the Israeli mission to the United Nations last night. Various issues were discussed in the 45-minute meeting. Our U.S.-based correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports:

During the meeting with his Israeli colleague, the Chinese ambassador was called away to the telephone. The caller was an aide informing him that permission to make the meeting public had been received from high echelons in the PRC. This is a typical example of the tempo of and caution accompanying China's overt relations with Israel. It is ready to promote bilateral ties, as long as they do not look like a step toward diplomatic relations.

It has been some time since it was agreed that academic missions would be opened in both China and Israel to serve as bases for various activities normally carried out from consulates and embassies. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 7 March adds that the two ambassadors "discussed steps to open an academic mission in both Israel and China that will allow the expansion of relations."]

Chinese Ambassador Li Luye proposed yesterday that his country open an office in Tel Aviv to promote tourism to China. As is the practice among countries, Israel would be able to open a similar office in the PRC. The two envoys raised other proposals for promoting the functional aspects of relations.

In another sphere, they exchanged views on the latest international developments. The Chinese ambassador gave an account of the forthcoming summit meeting between the Soviet president and the Chinese leaders and on President Bush's visit to Beijing.

It appears that the channel that the Chinese and Israeli ambassadors decided to establish does indeed function. The Israeli and Chinese delegations to the United Nations are institutionalizing relations. Future meetings will take place every 3 weeks.

Dubinin: Mideast 'Number One Priority' for USSR

TA0503131289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Yo'el Esteron]

[Text] The Middle East is the number one priority on the Soviet foreign policy agenda. This was stated yesterday by Soviet Ambassador to Washington Yuriy Dubinin in an exclusive interview with HADASHOT. "This is a region in which we intend to act very vigorously," he added.

Placing the Middle East at the top of the Soviet Union's foreign policy agenda is particularly remarkable in view of the fact that the United States is still in the process of formulating its foreign policy and has not yet determined the priority of the Middle East issue on its own agenda.

According to Dubinin, his country "is very encouraged" by the Middle East tour of its foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, including his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. This meeting was defined by the ambassador as "a meeting that was natural and necessary, as well as symbolic and historic." At the same time, Dubinin emphasized the Soviet expectation "for a positive development in Israeli policy."

Polish Airline To Renew Flights to Tel Aviv

TA0403185789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] The Polish airline Lot will renew its direct flights to Israel. In a statement released in Warsaw today, the airline said flights will begin from the end of the month between Warsaw and Tel Aviv. The Polish airline had canceled all direct flights to Israel after the 6-Day War.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Solomon Islands

TA0203171289 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
2 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yaqir Tzur]

[Excerpt] Israel and the Solomon Islands yesterday announced the establishment of diplomatic relations. Zohar Raz, Israel's ambassador in the Fijian capital of Suva, will represent Israel in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, as nonresident ambassador. [passage omitted]

Phone Calls About Missing Soldier Found False

TA0603200689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Security forces have arrested an inhabitant of the Gaza Strip who made harassing phone calls to various elements claiming to be holding the missing soldier, Avi Sasportas. As may be recalled, the man also claimed to be holding a videocassette showing Avi Sasportas. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky has more details:

Over the weekend, Shin Bet personnel arrested an inhabitant of the Al-Mughazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The 35-year-old Arab is suspected of being the man who made the phone calls in which he provided, as it were, details about the whereabouts of Avi Sasportas as well as demands for his release.

The suspect phoned AFP and attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah. In those phone calls, he argued that Sasportas was being held by a Palestinian organization. In exchange for freeing Sasportas it demanded, among other things, the release of detainees locked up during the uprising in the territories and the disclosure of the film documenting the killing of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

The demands looked odd. Through a combined and complex intelligence effort, the Shin Bet succeeded in unveiling the identity of the caller. He is not connected to the affair in any way, he knows nothing about the Sasportas affair, he operated on his own, and he is not a member of any terrorist organization. He is a married man, an eccentric, speaks flawless Hebrew, and worked in the town of Ashdod for a long time. The reason for his demands was to bring about the release of a friend being detained for participating in disturbances.

As for the missing soldier: The intelligence effort to uncover the whereabouts of Avi Sasportas continues ceaselessly. As matters stand at the moment, there have been no developments in the affair.

Leftists Meet With Leading Gazan Palestinians

TA0403150489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Representatives of the Civil Rights Movement, United Workers Party, and Peace Now met in Gaza with several leading Palestinian figures. Our correspondent Hasan Abu Zayid said that the meeting took place yesterday [3 March] at the Gaza Bar Association office in Gaza.

Participants on the Palestinian side were attorney Fayiz Abu Rahmah; Dhakariyya al-Ar'a, chairman of the Gaza Strip Medical Association; and Hatim Abu Sha'ban, head of the Engineers Association. Among the Israelis were 'Amira Sartani, Dani Peled, Eli Shim'oni, and Prof Dani Ya'aqovson. The Israelis arrived at the Erez checkpoint, and from there traveled in vehicles belonging to the Gaza inhabitants to the Bar Association office.

Convoys Kept From Meetings

TA0403185389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] The Israeli army prevented five convoys of Peace Now members from making their way to meetings with Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria. One of the groups succeeding in reaching the outskirts of Bayt Sahur by foot, where the members held a gathering without the participation of local residents.

Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement charged that the defense minister's decision to close off Judaea and Samaria to members of Peace Now was a grave action and against the cause of peace. During the gathering, the area where it was being held was declared a closed military zone and Israeli soldiers asked peace activists to leave. Several members of another convoy succeeded in reaching the village of Sunayrat near Nabulus and met with local residents. [passage omitted]

Peace Now 'Totally Marginal'

TA0503174589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] The prime minister said Peace Now is a totally marginal body that cannot exert any influence or bring about a decisive outcome. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in a conversation with Likud members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the prime minister said: The Arabs are sick and tired of meeting with Peace Now representatives. He called on Likud members to turn a deaf ear to what he called the dirty murmurings about new political initiatives.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

11 Reported Wounded

TA0603201189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Four inhabitants were injured in Judaea and Samaria this afternoon in clashes with Israel Defense Forces [IDF] troops: two in the refugee camp in Janin, one in Qabatiyah, and one in Silwad. Army sources say the four were wounded during stone-throwing incidents.

Inhabitants of the Gaza Strip say seven people were wounded in the area this afternoon by IDF gunfire: one in Gaza's Zaytun neighborhood, one in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp, and five in the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF is checking the veracity of these reports.

Suspects in Killing Detained

TA0703095889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] The security forces have uncovered a local cell in the Nabulus casbah. Two men, suspected of carrying out the attack in which Israel Defense Forces [IDF] soldier Binyamin Meisner was killed 10 days ago, were detained.

The two suspects, residents of the Nabulus casbah, have been detained several times in the past and have served various prison sentences for participating in riots. After their release, the two continued their activities in the framework of the strike forces operated by the local Al-Shabibah group. The two were even injured by IDF gunfire in the course of disturbances.

Today the security forces demolished the homes of the two suspects. [passage omitted]

1 Killed in Nabulus

TA0703113589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Excerpt] This morning the security forces shot and killed a youth in the course of a pursuit. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the course of a search of the Nabulus casbah for wanted persons, the security forces pursued three suspects. One of them continued to run after being asked to halt. Following the procedures for detaining suspects, the soldiers shot at the fleeing youth, killing him. An investigation revealed that he was wanted by the security forces and had been detained for participation in riots.

In the course of searches in Nabulus, the security forces detained five wanted residents. In addition, the Israel Defense Forces sealed two alleys in the Balatah refugee camp and three alleys in the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus. The alleys had served as sites for throwing stones at Israeli cars.

The security forces have also detained two Nabulus casbah youths suspected of killing paratrooper Binyamin Meisner and demolished their houses. At dawn, a curfew was imposed on the city to prevent riots during the demolitions. [passage omitted]

4 Injured by Army Gunfire

TA0703125989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Four residents were injured today in Gaza and Jabalyah as a result of army gunfire. They were transferred to local hospitals. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that several demonstrations were staged this morning in Gaza and Jabalyah, in the course of which the army was forced to shoot at demonstration organizers. As was said before, four were wounded and transferred to hospitals.

Firebomb Thrower Sentenced

TA0703145089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] A 12-year prison sentence including 7 years to be spent in jail was meted out to a 16-year-old youngster from Jabalyah. He was convicted of throwing three firebombs and of intimidating local businessmen. This is reported by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

Autopsy Results on Prisoner

TA0703152589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The autopsy performed on the body of Mahmud Yusuf al-Masri, the security prisoner who was found dead in the Shin Bet's interrogation room in Gaza yesterday, did not yield any criminal findings. This has been learned by our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum. The findings have been submitted to Israeli Police National Headquarters.

Our correspondent points out that National Headquarters refuses to comment on the affair and that the police spokesman is not prepared to reveal the cause of death noted in the forensics doctor's report. The criminal investigation department at Police National Headquarters is continuing its investigation.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 7 March reports: "Justice Minister Dan Meridor stated today that allegations about torture in Gaza Prison, where Mahmud Yusuf al-Masri died yesterday, are unfounded. The minister promised that the circumstances of the prisoner's death would be investigated."]

20 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA0703153889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Riots have been reported in numerous locations in the Gaza Strip. Local inhabitants report over 20 people wounded in the disturbances, but a spokesman at the Southern Command says Israel Defense Forces [IDF] knows only of about four people wounded.

The spokesman informed our correspondent Moti Amir of a riot that took place this morning at the UNRWA school in Gaza. Border policemen were chasing stone-throwers, and in the course of their pursuit entered the UNRWA office compound. The troops met with the resistance of UNRWA workers, and reinforcements summoned to the scene had to use force to break through the barricades and rescue the soldiers.

An IDF officer on the scene explained to the UNRWA director in the Gaza Strip why the IDF had to resort to force in order to rescue the soldiers. Our correspondent Hasan Abu Zayid reports that seven students were arrested for interrogation.

Reportage on Visit by UK's William Waldegrave

Meets Al-Rifa'i, Al-Qasim 6 Mar

JN0603142189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office at noon today William Waldegrave, British Foreign Office minister of state. They talked about the latest regional developments and how Britain may help the peace process along toward a a just, durable, and overall settlement in the Middle East.

Both sides stressed the need for a UN-sponsored international Mideast peace conference with the participation of the five UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the dispute including the PLO. They also discussed British-Jordanian cooperation and how to develop it further. Attending were the UK ambassador in Amman and Waldegrave's delegation.

Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister has also received William Waldegrave. They reviewed regional developments with emphasis on the Palestine question. Al-Qasim underscored the importance Jordan attaches to the European countries' role in the peace process, more particularly, through the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Waldegrave outlined his impressions of his visit to the occupied territory. The two sides discussed other topics of mutual interest, emphasizing their desire to step up bilateral, particularly economic, cooperation. The British minister said on arrival earlier today that His Majesty King Husayn's persistent efforts to promote a Mideast settlement, coupled with those made by Egypt's President Mubark and PLO Chairman 'Arafat, mark a significant contribution to the peace process.

Waldegrave, arriving from the occupied Arab territory, told reporters Israel must match these efforts and consent to an international peace conference with the participation of the five UN Security Council permanent members if a just peace is to be reached. Britain, he added, is trying to persuade and encourage Israel to respond to peace efforts.

Waldegrave said he will discuss with Jordanian officials many topics including the peace process, Mideast developments, and the promotion of an international conference. Britain and Jordan have identical views on the need to convene the conference, he added.

Asked about the European Community's potential role in consolidating the peace efforts, Waldegrave said the EC states, and especially Britain, are profoundly interested in reaching a Mideast solution via the international conference. The EC nations, he added, are making intensive contacts with the parties to the dispute, including the PLO, to bolster the peace efforts.

On his trip to the occupied land, the British diplomat said any visitor to the territory will conclude that conditions cannot possibly continue as they are. They can stay unchanged from Israel's standpoint, but the Israelis will not be able to keep the hopes and aspirations of the population there bottled up, said Waldegrave. He said the occupied land is is being subjected to injustice, coercion, and repression.

Waldegrave added that when Mrs Thatcher visited Israel in 1986, she said the conditions in the occupied land are temporary and must end. It is now clearer than ever that these conditions must end, he added.

The living conditions in the occupied land, especially in the Gaza Strip, are extremely bad, he added. I respect the pride and restraint of the people of Gaza.

Received by King Husayn 6 Mar

JN0603165189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon William Waldegrave, British Foreign Office minister of state, in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. Waldegrave conveyed to his majesty the greetings of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, explained the nature of his tour of the Middle East, and gave his impression of the conditions in which the Palestinian people in the occupied territories live.

His Majesty King Husayn talked about the details of the Jordanian view regarding the recent developments in the Middle East and the international moves to hold an international peace conference.

He expressed satisfaction with the British Government's understanding of the elements of the region's conflict and the seriousness of the British efforts to secure large-scale moves toward the convening of the international conference, which will be attended by the Security Council's five permanent member states and the parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the king's political adviser, the king's private adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the British ambassador in Amman.

Addresses Friendship Society

JN0603213289 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] This evening, Mr Waldegrave addressed the Jordan-British Friendship Society. Mr Waldegrave spoke about the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian question, the situation in the Gulf, and the Arab Cooperation Council.

[Begin Waldegrave recording] The last few months have seen historic changes take place, which may, if handled adroitly, give us the best opportunity for achieving real progress towards peace that we have had for many years.

We in Britain are the first to recognize that no one has tried harder with great personal courage to bring about a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute than His Majesty King Husayn. I know I speak for many when I pay tribute to his efforts and express gratitude for his wise advice. With the Jordanian disengagement last July from the West Bank, King Husayn sought to give the peace process a new impetus with remarkable success.

Questions of cause and effect in political and historical decisions are never easy to determine, particularly at short range. But it came as a great encouragement to us when the leadership of the PLO showed last autumn that they were clearly willing, in response to King Husayn's decision of July, to assume a role of responsibility in the peace process. The decisions of the Palestine National Council in November, and the statements made during the special General Assembly session in Geneva the following month, opened the way to eventual participation of the PLO in negotiations for peace.

These commitments by the PLO represent a turning point in the history of this tortuous dispute. They deserve a positive response from Israel.

I do also consider that the intifadah [uprising] has injected a new dynamic of its own. It has given the Palestinians back their dignity. It has also caused the PLO to adopt more moderate positions—those that many of us in the Middle East and in Europe have been urging on them for years.

I believe that the PLO's shift in policy is not a tactical move to gain temporary advantage, but a strategic decision reflecting a realization amongst the Palestinians that the hard graft of negotiation in fact offers the only practical way of achieving the long desired goal of Palestinian self-determination.

As you know, I have just come from spending some days in Israel and the occupied territories. I have met some very brave and very determined people, both Israelis and Palestinians. The experience reinforced what I had suspected before—that the present situation in the occupied territories cannot fail deeply to affect any person of sensibility and that occupation cannot be a solution.

It also demonstrated that to term the territories liberated, as Mr Shamir did when I was there, is simply bizarre—to use a British understatement. My visit to Nabulus under curfew brought home to me forcibly that the territories are indeed under complete and thorough military occupation.

I refer throughout to our position as a permament member of the Security Council. This is another area where there has recently been success. In November 1987, Sir Geoffrey Howe spoke there of the uncertainties over implementing Security Council Resolution 598, a text patiently prepared and aimed at ending the conflict between Iran and Iraq—one of the most bitter and damaging wars of modern times.

Now we are able to welcome the cease-fire. We recognize that there can be no lasting peace in the Gulf until a settlement between these two significant regional powers is reached and we urge both sides to negotiate seriously to achieve that end. We therefore welcome too the proposed confidence-building measures which will help to consolidate the cease-fire now in place. The five permanent members of the Security Council played an important role in securing agreement by both sides to implement Resolution 598.

The security of the Gulf is, of course, a matter of deep interest to both the Jordanian and the British Governments. And I should like to pay tribute to the positive role played by his majesty the king in helping to bring about the adoption of Resolution 598 and the present cease-fire.

I should like to mention one recent and striking example of increased regional cooperation—the foundation of the Arab Cooperation Council—bringing together four moderate Arab countries, all of whom, incidentally, believe in the role of the free market. I very much hope that this grouping will be able to exploit the willingness of those in the area to work together for the sake of enhanced stability and prosperity. We hope that the prizes to be won will enable the members of the Arab Cooperation Council to overcome the obstacles which you all, no doubt, encounter. [end recording]

Holds News Conference in Amman

JN0703132289 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr William Waldgrave described Israeli orders to close down schools and universities in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a foolish policy.

In a news conference held in Amman today, Mr Waldgrave called for bringing international pressure on Israel to halt these oppressive measures which are doing great damage to the Middle East peace process. He said the Israeli measures are unacceptable and cannot continue because they lead to more violence between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. He pointed out that Britain, the European Community, and the United States as well had repeatedly protested against these unacceptable Israeli methods.

Mr Waldgrave expressed hope that an international Middle East peace conference would be convened despite the negative response by Israel, adding that it is difficult to predict a timescale for the convening of the conference. In reply to a question about the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the British minister said that his country is committed to the Venice Declaration, which supported the right of the Palestinians for self-determination.

On the Soviet attitude towards the Middle East issue, he described it as more positive than it used to be in the past. He added that the Soviet foreign minister's latest proposals are not far from the European Community views on the issue. He said his talks with the Israeli foreign minister were not identical in terms of the issues they had discussed. However, he said, many Israelis support peaceful efforts to settle the Middle East crisis, asserting the need for encouraging such an approach inside Israel.

Prime Minister on Economy, Palestinian Question

PM0603170589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Mar 89 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i by Zaki Musa in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Musa] Observers are showing interest in the current economic situation in Jordan. What, in your view, is the nature of the crisis, and is there a way of surmounting it?

[Al-Rifa'i] The crisis is financial, not economic. The Jordanian economy is sound and healthy and has achieved and continues to achieve good growth rates compared to the rest of the region and most countries of the world.

Our problem is the Treasury's shortage of foreign currency necessary for the repayment of foreign debts. Quite frankly, these debts have accumulated for one reason, which is that aid pledged by the fraternal states to Jordan at the Baghdad summit conference has not been fully honored.

The only state which has fully honored its commitments is the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We appreciate the continuous support and aid extended by custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd. Saudi Arabia has honored its commitments.

The other fraternal states are helping and we thank them for their aid, but that aid is much less than the commitments they made at the Baghdad summit and it is irregular. The government's borrowing over the past 10 years has been made on the basis that the Arab aid we received would be sufficient to repay installments and interest due. No Jordanian Government has in any year borrowed more than the [promised] Arab aid, but, regrettably, when the Arab aid installments did not arrive, there was an accumulation of debts and interest.

So, to preserve our credibility—and we do enjoy high credibility in the world—we had to settle the debts from our own assets and we reached a point where we could not continue to repay the public debts from our own resources. That is why we had to reconsider our financial and economic position and we restructured our entire economy. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Rescheduling of debts is considered one way of settling the crisis, and you made some efforts with the creditor states to find a solution. What answers did you get in this connection?

[Al-Rifa'i] Bilateral contacts have been made and are continuing, but so far our contacts are mainly focused on the World Bank and the IMF. Most probably there will be collective contacts through these two international establishments and then we can continue our bilateral contacts.

Jordan's debts to governments are not the problem. The problem is commercial and bank debts, which require World Bank and IMF cover. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Some people claim that the legal and administrative disengagement from the West Bank and Gaza was one cause of the present economic situation.

[Al-Rifa'i] That is nonsense and untrue. We have heard many prevarications, claims, and theories—not based on facts—that our financial difficulties are a result of the government's political decisions. That is nonsense. One such claim was that one cause of the dinar crisis, if we can use that expression, was the PLO's withdrawal of its funds from Jordanian banks. That is incorrect, because the PLO had no funds in Jordanian banks to withdraw.

Second, even if it did, these would be funds belonging to individuals and institutions, which means that they would be in private banks and the government would have nothing to do with them. We have freedom of transfers here and any resident or nonresident citizen who has foreign currency accounts is entitled to transfer his money any way he likes. These are not government funds.

It has also been claimed that there has been a drop in the expatriate transfers because of the disengagement. That too is untrue. Transfers are continuing at the same level. Therefore, this claim is completely unfounded. It is true, however, that there is a link between the financial situations on the East Bank and on the West Bank, because the currency used on the West Bank is the dinar and the people's savings were dinar savings.

As a result of the intifadah, which we hope will continue, the people began to live on their savings because of insufficient aid from various sources and because of Israeli practices and blocking of the people's funds. Withdrawal of savings means greater demand for the dinar, which in turn affects the value of the dinar here and places additional responsibilities on us, and we are honored to shoulder these responsibilities in support of the intifadah and steadfastness of the people in the occupied territory. I repeat that there is no connection whatever between any political decision and the financial situation.

[Musa] You had previously said that 1989 would be the year of parliamentary elections in Jordan. What point has the legal committee charged with redrafting the electoral law reached and will the new law apply to the East Bank only?

[Al-Rifa'i] Yes, actually the committee is about to complete its proposals and recommendations for amendment of the law. The main amendment will be in the distribution of seats in the provinces. Of course, there will be no seats for the West Bank provinces, because the West Bank is now part of the independent Palestinian state which we have recognized. So there will be no dual representation.

One of the advantages of disengagement, which we have described as an act of distancing in order to get closer, is that we have eliminated the interaction and duplicity of representation and we have eliminated the sensitivities. As a result, our relations with the PLO are now at their best. They are close fraternal relations characterized by a desire for mutual cooperation in the interest of the Palestinian cause to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their national objectives. So, the law's main amendment will be that there will be no parliamentary seats for the West Bank. [passage omitted]

[Musa] The royal decree of amnesty for prisoners has been strongly welcomed by the public and by observers because it covered everyone. However, there are those who claim that the released political detainees were just detainees, not sentenced prisoners. When will those be released?

[Al-Rifa'i] Let me emphasize that we have no such thing as political prisoners in our prisons. Our courts do not pass sentences on individuals simply because they are members of an outlawed party or organization, even if such membership is unlawful. The country's nature and the Jordanian regime's tolerance make it overlook many things.

The convicts against whom sentences have been passed are not political prisoners. The sentences were handed down for committed felonies and crimes which might have had a political background, but that does not concern us. The punishment was for a definite, committed crime. That is why these people are treated as ordinary prisoners.

As regards the detainees, the reason why we sometimes resort to detention rather than trial is that the sentences in these cases would be long years of imprisonment. We do not use that method. We use the method of administrative detention for a few weeks or months at the most, after which they are released. As you well know, the number of people detained administratively for political reasons did not exceed 35 and they have all been released. I can therefore say most truthfully that we have no political convicts and no political detainees. [passage omitted]

[Musa] The Jordanian Kingdom is making great efforts to bridge the views of Damascus and Cairo and Damascus and Baghdad. What point have these efforts reached?

[Al-Rifa'i] Eliminating Arab differences and enhancing Arab solidarity are King Husayn's overriding preoccupation. He devotes his time and efforts to that objective. We have made some efforts in addition to the efforts made by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, directly or through Crown Prince 'Abdallah.

In some cases we have made joint or complementary efforts to eliminate all Arab differences. Some of these efforts have been fruitful. These efforts will continue until they achieve their objectives, God willing.

[Musa] In what respects have these efforts been fruitful?

[Al-Rifa'i] We notice, for example, that normal relations have been restored between Syria and Morocco. We notice that there has been some development in Syrian-Egyptian relations and some concerted Arab efforts to formulate a unified Arab stance on the challenges facing the Arab nation. We also mention the Amman summit resolution on complete restoration of relations with Egypt. As I said, these efforts will continue, God willing.

[Musa] Don't Jordan's ties with Iraq affect your efforts to bridge Syrian and Iraqi views?

[Al-Rifa'i] Jordan enjoys close relations with Syria, as I have already mentioned, and with Iraq. It has a higher joint committee with Syria and another with Iraq.

[Musa] Some people have described Jordan's disengagement decision as a move to block the Likud call for an alternative homeland. Is that true and do you expect a change in Likud's attitude to the peace process after its repeated rejection of the known proposals.

[Al-Rifa'i] The main aim of the legal and administrative disengagement from the West Bank was to project the Palestinian identity and to enable the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, the PLO, to discharge its duties and work without any room for dual representation. We wanted to demonstrate to the world, on the Arab, Palestinian, and international levels, that we support Palestinian efforts to secure fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate, inalienable national rights and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right of self-determination on their own national soil, which will become a Palestinian independent state as soon as the Israeli forces withdraw.

The disengagement decision was not a reaction to one or more parties in Israel. As regards the policies of the Likud and some of the Likud factions, their policies are originally based on having no interest in peace and no desire to withdraw in return for peace. They are trying to find some way out of their dilemma regarding the continuing intifadah, which aims to bring about Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory.

Israel is trying to end the dilemma by proposing silly alternatives, as if the Palestinian people were people without land looking for any place to establish their state. The Palestinian people are in the land of their fathers and forefathers. This land is occupied by Israel and Israel must withdraw so the Palestinian people may establish their state on their national soil of Palestine and nowhere else.

[Musa] Moshe Arens and others still hope Jordan will play a special part in the peace process. Could you explain to us the Kingdom's own concept of its role in the peace process, particularly the question of representation?

[Al-Rifa'i] We are a confrontation state with the longest border with Israel. Of course we will be a part of the peace process, but Jordan's role will be within the framework of the Arab-Israeli conflict, not the Palestinian question as far as direct responsibility is concerned, because that is the responsibility of the Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO.

We support whatever the PLO decides and we will cooperate with it to enable it to achieve its objectives. We are part of the Arab world and the region, and therefore our role in any peace process will be a supporting and auxiliary role to that of the PLO. We, on the other hand, have a role to play as a confrontation state with the longest border with Israel.

[Musa] The past 3 months have witnessed important developments relating to the Middle East situation, the most significant being the PLO's recent stands reflected in the proclamation of a state and recognition of UN resolutions, and the start of dialogue with the United States. To what extent will these developments bring closer an international solution to the problem?

[Al-Rifa'i] The PLO has, of course, taken internationally acceptable stands and has managed to get U.S. agreement to begin a dialogue with it after the announcement of the PNC resolutions in Algiers and the positions reflected in PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's UN speech in Geneva. It seems these dialogues are continuing and there is an international inclination to settle all regional issues and regional conflicts in the world.

The Soviet Union, the United States, and, to a certain extent, the other permanent members of the Security Council have contributed to the creation of a positive atmosphere which has led to the settlement of the issues of Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola, and Zambia [as published] and to a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. This international detente will, in my opinion, continue and the turn of the Middle East will come. It is too early to answer many questions now. They are all related to the new U.S. Administration's Middle East policy. It is commonly known that the peace process can only begin at an international peace conference. Such a conference can only be held as a result of agreement among the big permanent members of the Security Council.

Once such an agreement is reached the United States must play a major part in developing and changing the Israeli position in favor of peace. Such a U.S. role is essential in the peace process and we hope international pressure and the efforts made by the fraternal Arab states and Jordan, coupled with the PLO's dialogue with the United States, will produce a crystal-clear U.S. stand that will help to start up the peace process.

[Musa] Do you expect an international conference to be held this year and do you expect elimination of the obstacles standing in its way this year?

[Al-Rifa'i] The obstacles in the way of an international conference have been eliminated at the Arab level. That leaves the Israeli obstacle and its elimination depends on the new U.S. Administration and its policy. It is not easy to draw up a timetable for U.S. action, but we hope this opportunity will not be lost as a result of U.S. delay in taking a stand that would change the Israeli position.

[Musa] Jordan's relations with the United States went through an unprecedented cool period under the Reagan administration. Has that period come to an end under the new president?

[Al-Rifa'i] It seems President Reagan had different foreign policy priorities which did not include the Middle East. That is why the United States did not give a practical boost to the peace process. Add to this the bilateral problems we faced as a result of the attitudes of Congress and AIPAC [American-Israeli Political Action Committee] and the fact that the U.S. Administration did not wish to have a confrontation with them over fulfillment of armament and economic aid commitments to Jordan. We hope we have now passed this stage.

King Husayn and President Bush are joined by friendship. President Bush has visited Jordan several times and knows Jordan and, by virtue of his vast foreign policy experience, he is qualified to play a major role. We, therefore, hope we have turned a new leaf dedicated mostly to the service of Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause.

VOL Says Al-Huss To Tender Resignation

NC0703123789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] West Beirut sources said that Dr Salim al-Huss is determined to submit his resignation from the Al-Sana'i' grouping [cabinet which he chairs] because of the emotional situation prevailing inside the grouping due to the rigid stands which Walid Junblatt announced recently. The sources added that Al-Huss is currently holding consultations over announcing his resignation from the grouping. He discussed this issue with 'Adil 'Usayran and Deputy 'Abdallah al-Rasi yesterday.

Fadlallah Calls for Muslim-Christian Dialogue

NC0603174489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said today that he expects numerous wars and complications to occur before the time is ripe for a solution. He declared that those responsible for the fires of sedition do not want a solution of the Lebanese problem brought about for humanitarian reasons. They want to resolve the issue in a manner tht will serve regional and international interests, he said.

Fadlallah called for a dialogue of realistic understanding between Muslims and Christians, conducted without attempts to score points. He pointed out that being an Arab or a Muslim does not preclude your being a Lebanese.

VOM Reports Junblatt 7 Mar News Conference

NC0703143189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 7 Mar 89

[News conference by Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt in Al-Mukhtarah on 7 Mar—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Junblatt] I believe that the Voice of the Mountain Radio yesterday broadcast the interrogations with Yusuf al-'Ayyat, the murderer, or the man, who carried out the assassination of Comrade Anwar al-Fatayri [former PSP secretary general]. Yusuf al-'Ayyat himself does not matter. What matters are those behind him. I will later give you the text of the interrogation together with a recording of Al-'Ayyat's voice. I believe that there is a central network linked with a person called Farid Hamadah. This is not the first time Farid Hamadah has carried out attacks against the Arab and Lebanese nationalists in the mountain.

We can still recall Shaykh Halim Taqiy al-Din, whom Farid Hamadah assassinated in collusion with [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil and the intelligence services of a foreign country which I would rather not mention here. [passage omitted]

There is a Maronite attempt to remold the Druze in the mountain to suit Maronite interests. This is simply the case. Farid is an agent for the Maronites; let me say this frankly. The aim is to tame the Druze to fit into the Maronite scheme. The goal is to kill all the Druze with pan-Arab objectives. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Concerning the ports issue, it is known that a naval blockade has been imposed on Al-Jiyah and Khaldah Ports. If such a blockade persists, will the PSP take any measures?

[Junblatt] I have asked Salim al-Huss to take an official stand on Al-Jiyah and Al-Mudawwar Ports. We are awaiting a decree giving legal status to these two ports. We are awaiting a stand. As I had predicted, Michel 'Awn is persisting in his line. Al-Huss is the prime minister and the foreign minister. Why does he not contact the embassies which Michel 'Awn has contacted?

[Correspondent] But it seems that Al-Huss' response to your requests was to suspend the government's work.

[Junblatt] There is no problem in doing that. Let us suspend the government's work. As I mentioned before, there is a lack of harmony in this government. Some people are sympathizing with Al-Yarzah and others have pan-Arab commitments. Let us draw the line. Either we work together from a pan-Arab perspective or forget the whole thing. This is not a problem.

[Correspondent] Are there any special measures which the PSP is ready to undertake unilaterally and without help from the other elements of the government to counter the blockade?

[Junblatt] I do not know.

[Correspondent] It is known that your party is among the strongest in the Lebanese arena. The Druze community and the PSP have strong relations with other national elements. Do you have any plans to prevent future assassinations like Anwar al-Fatayri's?

[Junblatt] The magnitude of the hostile forces is great. In the recent PSP Executive Committee meeting, I pointed out the hostile forces. I pinpointed Israel, I pinpointed the Lebanese Army, and I also mentioned Iraq. Up to now, there is political, military, and financial cooperation between Iraq and the Maronites. The hostile forces are of a considerable size and of course the death of Anwar proved that the mountain has been infiltrated and its security compromised. We will try with our means and by cooperating with the Syrians to eradicate this conspiracy. [passage omitted] [Correspondent] The political situation has become tense in the past 48 hours. Are we facing a new military confrontation?

[Junblatt] No one is talking about a military round. We are talking politics now.

[Correspondent] There were warnings from...

[Junblatt, interrupting] They are encircling us. They sent a booby-trapped [car bomb] message. I was expecting this after the port's crossing point was closed again. Beirut always has been the scene of time bombs. How will it be tomorrow when two or three crossing points [are closed]? They have sent this message. Have I sent it? No, they have sent it. These actions are implemented by some known dens in Sidon. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Junblatt] We have differences on the political course: The Army, the Central Bank, the solution in Lebanon, and Arab alliances. We differ on the political course. We cannot work with Salim al-Huss when he is surrounded by a group of spies, such as Khalid al-Qabbani, Mahmud Hatab, and others. Another example of our differences is the Army issue. The largest party in Lebanon today is the Army's. Salim al-Huss is with the Army party. We are not with the Army party.

As to political reforms, I believe that, although they are saying openly that they want reforms, they, in fact, do not want reforms. Political reforms will in the end lead to power sharing with other Islamic sects. They do not want this. They want to remain as they were in 1943. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Sources of Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi say that there is no justification for the campaign against him because he has given money to 30 municipalities in the Al-Shuf District compared to only 3 municipalities in 'Akkar?

[Junblatt] True. We thank him for giving 3 million pounds to Al-Mukhtarah and 2 million pounds to Barja. But what is the logic? Al-Mukhtarah is only one-third the size of Barja. That is only an example. [passage omitted]

We also want Dr al-Huss to take a stand on Salman Rushdie's book, which insulted Muslims all over the world. Let him take a stand. He has not taken a stand yet.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Junblatt] Yes, he has banned it from the country. He also responded to 'Awn's orders to close Al-Jiyah and Khaldah. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Are there detainees?

[Junblatt] There are detainees and we are going to release those who have nothing to do with the case. The issue is not one against Al-Jahaliyah [where PSP official Al-Fatyri was assassinated] but one against a plot, against an Israeli line linked to some Arab intelligence services—the Iraqi intelligence in fact—and to a superpower. It is a line against the Arab symbols in the Druze sect. There is nothing against the families of Al-'Ayyas or Abu Diyab. There are agents.

[Correspondent] There are reports that the French intelligence service was...

[Junblatt, interrupting] I have no such information.

[Correspondent] Does tomorrow's meeting between the nationalist parties and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus have any connection with your recent stands?

[Junblatt] We will see tomorrow.

'Awn Orders Warships To Position Outside Ports

NC0703122789 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Sources in Al-Awza'i port say that Al-Yarzah [Army] command has ordered two warships to position themselves outside the port. Another warship was also ordered to position itself outside Al-Jiyah port in order to enforce the blockade.

At 0700 today, a Hawker Hunter fighter plane overflew Khaldah and was confronted by ground fire. A similar incident occurred yesterday. Al-Yarzah command, however, denied the incident and said that its planes conducted reconnaissance flights between 0730 and 0830.

In response to these blockade measures, the port crossing [in Beirut] remains closed since 2100 yesterday due to a decision by the [Brigadier General Ahmad al-Khatib] Army command in Beirut.

Al-Khatib Forces Close Beirut Port Crossing

NC0603195289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Brigadier General Sami Al-Khatib's command closed the port crossing at 2100 this evening. Al-Khatib's command has announced that this measure is a response to the revival of the functions of the Naval Operations Room, saying that this has led to confusion with regard to supplies and has also caused political confusion. According to the statement by Al-Khatib's command, the issue of all the ports must be resolved by a unified political decision.

Army Clashes With PSP Forces in Mountain Areas

NC0603203889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Dahr al-Wahsh has been coming under indiscriminate bombardment from the Al-Yarzah Army's positions in Suq al-Gharb for some time. Earlier this evening, PSP forces foiled an infiltration attempt by the Army, which tried to advance on Hill 888. This attempt was followed by violent clashes in which various types of weapons were used. The artillery bombardment is also being directed at Alayh and its outskirts.

Army Communique on Attacks

NC0703073589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] In a communique issued last night, the Lebanese Army's Guidance Directorate declared that Army positions in Suq al-Gharb came under machinegun and rocket fire from PSP positions at 2030 yesterday. This was followed by a concerted mortar attack on the town, prompting the Army to return fire.

The communique added that the port crossing was closed at 2115 yesterday. It explained that these attacks on Army positions and on citizens' freedom of movement between the capital's two sectors coincides with the joint naval operations room's resuming its functions for imposing the state's authority on all Lebanese ports.

Amal, Hizballah To Exchange Captured Positions

NC0303215889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] A security source has disclosed to the Bayrut News Agency that an agreement has been reached between the Amal Movement and Hizballah for Hizballah to hand over five Amal offices that it captured recently on the contact lines in return for five Hizballah military positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The security source said the exchange will take place simultaneously tomorrow in the Al-Ruways in the southern suburb of Beirut and in Jba' in the South.

Two Explosions Reported in West Beirut 6 Mar

NC0603195889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Two explosions caused property damage in West Beirut this evening. An explosive device went off outside the Asfar travel agency near the Saudi embassy in The Ra's Bayrut area at 2015. Another device exploded in front of the Mudawwar stores in Mar Ilyas street at 2040, causing a fire. The fire was brought under control.

Group Claims Responsibility

NC0703073489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The Shaykh Subhi al-Salih forces have claimed responsibility for the two explosions which occurred in West Beirut last night. The first blast took place near the Saudi Embassy in Al-Hamra and 10 meters from a Syrian occupation forces' checkpoint. The second blast occurred near the Mudawwar stores on Mar Ilyas Street in Al-Musaytibah and 20 meters from a Syrian occupation forces' security post charged with protecting the TASS office. The second explosion caused a fire which firemen extinguished.

Car Bomb Explosion Occurs in West Beirut 7 Mar

NC0703081389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0802 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] An explosion occurred near the Baptist church just opposite the studio occupied by artist Ziyad Al-Rahbani [in West Beirut] at 0920 this morning. A booby-trapped Fiat caused the explosion. According to preliminary reports, two people, including a woman in her forties, were killed, and an unknown number of persons were wounded. Fires broke out in cars parked near the explosion site. Military experts have been summoned to inspect the site and to assess the size of the explosive device.

1 Killed, 15 Wounded

NC0703092589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0902 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] According to the latest reports on the results of the [West Beirut] explosion, security sources have said that one person was killed and 15 wounded. They were taken to the American University Hospital.

Meanwhile, the responsible security forces are cordoning off the explosion site.

The explosive charge has been estimated at 20 kilograms of TNT. A booby-trapped Fiat 132 exploded near the Baptist Church in the Al-Hamra' area at 0930.

Joint Forces Report Attack at Port of Naqurah

JN0203190389 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces today rocketed the port of Naqurah near Lebanon's southern borders controlled by militias sponsored by the Zionist enemy. A statement issued by the joint forces said their men had fired three heavy Katyusha rockets at the port, damaging its principal basin, destroying a position of the enemy army, and killing or wounding three of its members.

A joint force of the Zionist occupation army and armed men of the agent enemy then carried out a wide combing operation in the vicinity using Zionist military helicopters to find men of the joint forces.

Meanwhile, a group of the joint forces attacked a joint position of the Zionist occupation forces in (Al-Shawmariyah) using guided missiles, rockets, and artillery scoring direct hits and killing or wounding a number of the enemy soliders and agents.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Occupy Qades District, Attack Qandahar

BK0603153489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin yesterday occupied Qades District in Badghis Province after fierce fighting. The mujahidin also took control of a large quantity of arms and ammunition including anti-aircraft guns. Fifty Kabul regime troops surrendered to the mujahidin with their weapons.

Security posts around the Qandahar airport were attacked resulting in the deaths of 15 Kabul regime troops. All equipment including tanks and trucks were captured. The mujahidin also attacked the air base in Qandahar and destroyed its communications system.

Reports speak of a scarcity of food and fuel in Kabul despite the arrival of a large Soviet convoy carrying essential commodities. Correspondents say the shortage of fuel has forced the Kabul regime to minimize the use of official vehicles.

Schools, Offices Close in Jalalabad; Arms Issued

BK0603151989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1456 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 6 (AFP) - The Afghan Government has closed schools and offices in Jalalabad and has issued weapons to teachers, workers and students, resistance sources said Monday.

Only defense-related concerns remain open in the important eastern garrison city, said the sources.

The Moscow-backed government has transferred more than 10,000 militiamen to the city from areas in the province of Konarha in the north, which the resistance says is mostly under its control.

The closure of the schools and offices follows an increase in rebel warnings to city residents to evacuate the city to avoid an impending attack.

Jalalabad has been besieged for months, and guerrillas say they control the Jalalabad-Kabul road, although they admit that some vehicles manage to get through.

Warnings of an attack increased considerably following the withdrawal of the last Soviet soldier from Afghanistan on February 15 and the creation of an interim rebel government in Pakistan on February 23. Resistance sources say the government will hold its first cabinet meeting soon inside Afghan territory.

The pro-rebel Afghan Information and Documentation Center quoted mujahidin sources as saying the resistance had completed arrangements for "an overall operation on Jalalabad."

The Afghan news agency meanwhile quoted local rebel Field Commander Haji Matin as saying that the long siege had benefitted the rebels, who could now "strengthen their positions for a combined attack."

Mr. Matin said the government was holding the city's residents hostage.

Resistance sources quoting travellers who have come out of Jalalabad and reached resistance-held zones said the city's food shortage had become more serious and that prices for essential items had skyrocketed.

A matchbox, which before cost one afghani, now costs 30, they said, and seven kilograms of wheat sell for 1,400 afghanis against 100 before. A bar of soap at the moment fetches 150 afghanis against 10 to 20 before, they added.

The resistance sources said rebel field commanders had offered to amnesty government militiamen who surrendered.

Kabul Troop Defections Reported in Jalalabad

BK0703083189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of continued defections by Kabul troops to the mujahidin. At the Jalalabad front, some 30 Kabul troops belonging to the 81st Brigade are reported to have joined the mujahidin along with their commander.

In another development, the mujahidin conducted a successful attack on the military post of (Lalang) last week, killing or injuring 13 Kabul troops. A tank was also destroyed during the operation.

Kabul Reports Armed Forces Operations 5-6 Mar

LD0603154689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] According to a report by a source in the Armed Forces, the situation is normal in most of the country's provinces. The units and companies are deployed in their normal places. The Kabul-Hayratan and Kabul-Jalalabad highways are open to traffic.

The transportation of the supply convoys is continuing normally. Only in some regions where the extremists groups were disrupting people's security did the Armed Forces foil their plundering actions by inflicting crushing blows.

The BIA military section reports the military situation in the last 24 hours as follows:

Parvan: The plunderers, who were stealthily attacking the delivery of food supplies to the people, were confronted with crushing blows by our herioc, courageous Armed Forces. As a result, 9 highway robbers were killed, 15 were injured, and 1 DShK and 5 strongholds were destroyed.

During combat operations in the region of (Bagh-e Lalaj), while heavy losses and damage were inflicted on the extremist groups supported by Pakistani military men, one soldier was martyred and two were injured.

Nangarhar: Thirty extremists were killed and 17 were injured as a result of artillery fire by the Armed Forces. They were carrying out plundering operations disrupting the peaceful life along the Sorobi-Jalalabad highway. In addition, 3 rockets, 5 mortars, 1 DShK, 3 recoilless guns, 12 strongholds, and 1 ammunition depot were destroyed.

Qandahar: As a result of search and mopping up operations in the western region of Qandahar city, eight warmongering elements were killed and five were injured. In the course of these operations, 13 strongholds, 30 mortars, 2 recoilless guns, and 1 rocket launcher belonging to the extremists were destroyed. In addition, 1 security personnel was martyred.

Herat: As a result of mopping up and preventive operations in Shindand and Enjil districts, a total of 14 plunderers were crushed and 6 were injured. A vehicle and a rocket launcher belonging to them were destroyed.

The situation is normal in other parts of the country.

According to another report, in the last 24 hours 544 of our brave youths joined the Armed Forces and were sent to the relevant units and companies to fulfill the sacred duty of military service.

Soviet Supplies Arrive in Kabul for 3d Day

BK0603141189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 6 Mar 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, March 6 (AFP)—Trucks carrying food and military supplies rolled into Kabul for a third straight day Monday from Hayratan, the tiny Afghan town on the border with the Soviet Union.

The latest batch of trucks, some of them towing artillery pieces and metal bread ovens and often piled high with firewood, pulled into Kabul after a long drive along the perilous Salang road, witnesses said.

On Saturday and Sunday some 14 trucks were fired upon by mujahidin rebels owing allegiance to the Muslim fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar in the 20-kilometre (12-mile) stretch outside the Kabul security zone.

It was not immediately known if there were any casualties.

However, in all other stretches of the road from Hayratan rebels allowed the convoys to pass unharmed, truck drivers said.

"There, they did not hide, they came right up to the trucks and were talking to us, but Gulbuddin's men hid and fired," said one driver.

Officials manning the Salang road checkpoint continued to insist that the scores of civilian trucks carrying food were destined for a United Nations relief effort in Kabul, which has run out of food for distribution among the citizens.

U.N. officials here, who have been trying to find a method of bringing food to Kabul's poorest who have been hardest hit by road blockades around the Afghan capital, said they had yet to receive any word on whether any of the convoy's contents were destined for them.

A U.N. airlift of essential supplies to Kabul ended after a lone consignment of flour was brought by an Ethiopian Airlines plane, with relief efforts bogged down because of airline insurance problems and pilot refusals.

Those stocks have been exhausted.

In Kabul itself there was little sign that people not connected with the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) or the military were benefiting from the new supplies.

Bread queues were long in the streets, and gasoline still scarce.

However, thousands lined up in school yards, many of them standing in slush from melting snow, to pay 70 afghanis (about 30 U.S. cents) for ration cards which will entitle them to fixed price food— which to date has been available only to those connected with the regime, military and party.

Those in the queues said they did not yet know what they would receive and added that the process of registration, carried out by the paramilitary, was lengthy and was being done neighbourhood by neighbourhood.

State television broadcasts the name of the neighbourhoods which must register each night.

Meanwhile, scores of small children took advantage of the melting snow around the foothills of the mountains surrounding the city to rove further afield in their search for grass and scrub to fuel suburban cooking fires.

Kabul Reports Convoy's Arrival

LD0603181289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Another convoy of basic essential goods arrived today for our compatriots bringing foodstuffs and fuel to Kabul city.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that the convoy, which comprises 180 vehicles, brought Kabul hundreds of tons of fuel, flour, rice, sugar, and other basic goods from Hayratan. Transportation via the Salang highway to Kabul city is continuing and the country's Armed Forces have ensured the security of the highway and supply convoys.

'Abdul Wakil Holds News Conference in India

LD0603191189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, who is paying a friendly and working visit to India, attended a press conference this afternoon with Indian and foreign journalists. He responded to journalists questions on the Afghan delegation's visit to India and the assessment of changes, developments, and the military-political situation in the Republic of Afghanistan following the withdrawal of Soviet military units.

Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil expressed satisfaction with the cooperation and the current economic, political and cultural relations betwen the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India. He said he appreciated India's efforts to find a political solution and its promise for economic and humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.

When asked if the possibility exists that Soviet military units will invited back to Afghanistan in the event the situation deteriorates, the foreign minister said that the withdrawal of the Soviet military units had been completed in accordance with the Geneva agreements, so people should not be pessimistic about the future and should not be thinking about the return of the Soviet military units. We are hopeful that the situation will improve, that peace will be ensured, and that a political solution will lead to unity among all Afghans. However, to atain this the good will and help of the other sides are also needed.

Reporting Pakistan's blatant violations of the Geneva agreements and its intensified interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, 'Abdul Wakil said that the convening of the so-called consultative council by the Pakistani military, the setting up of the interim government in Rawalpindi, and the dispatch of foreign advisers with Pakistani militia into Afghanistan are irrefutable proof of those violations.

He requested that all peace-loving countries, including India, an influential country in the Nonaligned Movement, draw Pakistan's attention to the need to observe the Geneva agreements which form a good foundation for a political solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan.

'Strong Protest' Made Over Pakistani 'Violations'

LD0603174689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul was summoned this morning, 6 March 1989, at 1130 to the Afghan Foreign Ministry and the following points were brought to his attention by the acting head of the First Political Department:

On 5 March, 150 Pakistani militias together with 400 extremists entered the region of Sar Hawzeh in Paktia Province to carry out illegal destructive activities and to participate with the extremists in attacks on Gardeyz city and Seyyed Karam district. Also according to reliable sources, Pakistan has organized groups of 10 militias in the ranks of Islamic bands and are sending them to Afghanistan to carry out destructive activities.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan lodges its strong protests about this unlawful aggression and provocative actions by the Pakistani Armed Forces, which are flagrant violations of all accepted international norms and standards, particularly of the provisions of the Geneva accords. It calls on Pakistan's responsible authorities to end such hostile actions as soon as possible. Otherwise the responsibility of their grave consequences will rest with Pakistan.

According to another report, the charge d'affaires of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul was summoned this afternoon to the Foreign Ministry where the acting head of the First Political Department conveyed to him Afghanistan's strong protest in connection with Pakistan's military interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and pointed out that, in continuation of this interference, 250 Pakistani militias and 100 soldier who were disguised in Afghan customs were sent to (Shinwar) in Nangarhar Province to organize and assist the destructive activities of the extremists.

Pakistanis continuing its air violations. A jet aircraft of the country's Air Force entered Afghan airspace on 5 March at 0945 at a speed of 700 km/h from the direction of (Khoshkodi Kandaw) and returned after carrying out reconnaissance flights over the regions of Darband and (Karoko).

The Foreign Ministry lodges the strong protest of the Afghan Government over this shameful aggression by Pakistan's Armed Forces which fully contradicts all accepted international norms and principles and is a flagrant violation of the Geneva accords. It calls on Pakistan's Government to seriously avoid such actions that will do nothing but aggravate the situation. Otherwise the responsibility for its grave consequences will rest on Pakistan's Government.

UN Informed of Pakistani 'Violations' of Accords

Notices 266-268 Submitted

LD0403063789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 3 BAKHTAR—The Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan with the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) informed the latter through notices number 266, 267 and 268 of flagrant and repeated violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords on Thursday.

Information on the Shakats military training camp, 80 kilometer south of Peshawar, where members of the Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin are trained by the Pakistani and Chinese military advisors are given. Also strict information on the two other military training camps, located at Warsak and Mullah Gori areas, for the extremists are provided in the 266th notice.

The notice further adds that the Afghan extremists after training in the use of arms and ammunition and methods of subversive activities are sent to Afghanistan to commit plunder, arson and murder.

In the 267th notice attention of UNGOMAP is directed to the delivery of larger caravans of lethal armaments from Pakistan into Afghanistan, which after the complete return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union back home, has created a grave threat against the ensurance of peace and security in Afghanistan.

In the 268th notice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to UNGOMAP a list of destructive activities committed by extremists against cities, villages, and establishment of public utilities is provided. The notice further adds that all-sided military aids of the Pakistani authorities to extremists have so far caused remarkable human and material losses in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The notices ask UNGOMAP to investigate instances of the Pakistani violations in the joint session of the sides, which unfortunately is not yet convened, and inform the sides of the results.

Notices 269-270 Delivered

LD0505070889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 4 BAKHTAR—The 269th and 270th notices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Pak's [Pakistan's] gross violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords were handed over to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] headquarters in Kabul on March 3.

The 269th notice refers to the despatch of assorted weapons and the sending of military advisers from Pakistan to Afghanistan which bring nothing but the continuation of bloodshed.

The 270th notice gives precise information about the location of Laise [name as received] military camp in Chatral region and Jargeer [name as received] military camp with a capacity of 4000 persons in Kohat region of Peshawar. The extremists are later despatched to Afghanistan from these camps for the perpetration of destructive activities after receiving military training in them.

The notices stress that such flagrant violations of the Geneva accords take place at a time when the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] have honestly abided by the accords and the Soviet military contingents have returned to their homeland in accordance with the provisions of the accords.

The notices have asked the UN mission to investigate into the cases and to inform the sides concerned of the findings.

Notices 271-274 Submitted

LD0603065589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 5 BAKHTAR—The 271st, 272d, 273d and 274th notices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Pak's [Pakistan's] violations of the Geneva accords were handed over to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] headquarters in Kabul.

The 271st notice presents precise information about the direct involvement of Pakistani soldiers and militias alongside the armed extremist groups in the subversive activities against the RA [Republic of Afghanistan], particularly in the border provinces of Nangarhar, Paktia and Qandahar.

The 272d notice gives information to the UNGOMAP office about three military camps in the regions of Chitral, Warsak, and Jamrud. The notice adds that the Afghan extremists are taught in these camps how to use the assorted weapons including the surface-to-surface rockets and are then despatched to Afghanistan for carrying out destructive activities.

The 273d and 274th notices informs the UNGOMAP about the continuation of the despatch of the lethal weapons from the territory of Pakistan to the RA as well as it presents a list of the destructive activities carried out by the extremist elements in the capital and provinces of the country causing huge human and material damage.

The notices call on the UN mission to investigate into the matter in accordance with Para. 7, Document No. 4, of the Geneva accords and to inform the findings to the sides concerned.

Protests 275-278 Delivered

LD0703092989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, March 6, BAKHTAR—The 275th, 276th, 277th and 278th notices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Pak's [Pakistan's] violations of the Geneva accords were handed over to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] headquarters in Kabul.

The 275th notice gives information to the UNGOMAP office about the military camp in Warsak from where about 3000 Afghan extremists after receiving military training have been sent to Afghanistan for carrying out subversive activities.

The three other notices inform the UNGOMAP office about the continuation of the despatch of the lethal weapons from the territory of Pakistan to the rebels as well as it presents a list of destructive activities carried out by the extremist elements carried out in the capital and provinces of the country causing huge human and material damages. One of the notices refers to the intrusion of a Pakistani jet plane into the airspace of Afghanistan on June 3.

The notices call on the UN mission to investigate into the matter in accordance with Para. 7, Document No. 4 of the Geneva accords and to inform the findings to the sides concerned.

Legislature Condemns Interim Rebel Government

*LD0703093489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0442 GMT 7 Mar 89*

[Text] Kabul, March 6, BAKHTAR—The general session of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan was held here today presided over by Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speaker of the house.

During the session the issues of the so-called the consultative council and interim government of the extremists and apply of the House of Representatives to UN [as received] on Pakistani and U.S. violations from the Geneva accords and the intensified interferences of Pakistan in the internal affairs of Afghanistan were discussed.

The general session of the House of Representatives issued a statement condemning the so-called interim government of the Afghan extremists based in Pakistan.

Likewise, it was decided at the session that a message should be drafted and then addressed to the UN secretary general on denouncing the violation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan and the USA.

A number of other domestic issues were discussed at the session as well.

Resolutions on Rationing, Defending Supply Routes

*LD0303222689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 3 Mar 89*

["Text" of resolutions by the Council of Ministers Executive Committee issued 28 February 1989—announcer-read]

[Text] Text of the resolution of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee on measures to further increase bread production for Kabul citizens:

To maximize and effectively use the Kabul bakery combine and to further increase the output of various types of breads, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan approves the following:

1. The Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs is being instructed to bake 1,000 gr second class bread loaves from the mixture of 50 percent first class flour and 50 percent third class flour and to sell each 1000 gr loaf of bread for 16 afghanis instead of the previous 800 gr loaf of bread.

Serious measures should be taken and implemented to enhance the quality of the output, particularly in organizing the supply of various kinds of bread for consumers in Kabul city and expanding the networks of bread sales in the respective localities.

With the cooperation of the security organs, the sale of Kabul bread combines' output by unpermissible means must be strictly prevented.

Serious action should be taken to effectively and maximally use the full capacity of the local Microrayan bakery unit.

With the participation of the central office of labor and social security, the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs should determine and distribute the amount of bread needed for employee luncheon rations in ministries, departments, and institutions in proportion to the existing number of employees: for each person 100 gr of bread. A report should be presented to the Council of Ministers within a week regarding the result of actions taken.

2. The Ministry of Commerce is being instructed to supply the cooking oil and sugar needed by these institutions on the basis of the protocol concluded with the Kabul bread combine enterprise.

Urgent action must be taken, with the participation of the Ministry of Transport, to transport bakery equipment from the private sector which will be funded with R50 million credit from the Soviet Union from Hayratan border to Kabul.

The above 12 bakery units must be handed over quicker, and owners' cooperation must be sought in this project to accelerate construction and assembly work.

3. The organs of the Armed Forces are being instructed with the cooperation of the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs and the Ministry of Commerce to carefully assess all relevant issues, including the supply of flour and diesel needed by respective units for activating and more efficiently using their respective bakeries, and they should try to meet the requirements of the units in such a manner.

Separate protocols with the Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs should be concluded on receiving supplies of bread needed, in accordance with the specified norm and existing personnel and the terms of the protocol must be adhered to.

Kabul municipality is being instructed to establish order so that full and effective use can be made from the amount of flour distributed to city bakeries and to seriously control the distribution of bread and its quality according to specified weight and price to consumers. Every misuse must be prevented in this respect.

With the cooperation of the Economic Consultative Council central department for the encouragement and development of private investments, the general department of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries must attract the cooperation of private investors to broaden and expand bakery networks with technical equipment and to provide them facilities similar to Afghan-Soviet projects.

5. The Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs, the Ministry of Commerce, and Kabul municipality, must present a report to the Council of Ministers on the circumstances surrounding the implementation of this resolution by 10 March 1989.

Text of the resolution of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee on extra measures to be taken to maximize the use of transportation facilities and the transportation of basic commodities from Hayratan:

The Council of Ministers points out that due to the existing political and military situation in the country the question of transporting basic commodities and supplying people with goods has become seriously and exceptionally important.

The armed extremists, contrary to the wishes and determination of the Afghan people, in addition to continuing the fratricidal war, savagely attack convoys carrying basic commodities to the people, thus causing poverty and hunger, particularly to poor people. They are trying to disrupt people's normal lives by blocking access to the cities and through economic sabotage to exacerbate the situation.

It must be said that despite resolutions and specific instructions issued on this subject, relevant organs have taken no effective and timely measures and the level of organizational work has been decreasing. Even considering the special circumstances in the country, some officials have remained indifferent and have not made use of existing possibilities. Large quantities of commodities piled up at border points and no necessary action was taken on the basis of the specified plan prior to the arrival of winter and the closure of highways.

At this very moment, 153,000 tons of commodities are piled up in Hayratan. Due to the lack of timely transportation of commodities from the ports and since no storehouses were built, particularly in Kabul city, serious difficulties have resulted. In addition to this, proper use has not been made of government and private sector vehicles to transport commodities.

In order to extricate ourselves from this difficult situation and to maximize the use of the country's transportation vehicles to supply the people of Kabul and other provinces in the country with basic commodities, we must take immediate and effective measures. All possibilities and existing means, must be mobilized.

The Council of Ministers approves the following:

1. The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of State Security are instructed to take and implement immediate and effective measures to satisfactorily restore security and to prevent all subversive actions on the Kabul-Hayratan highway, in particular along the Salang highway, in accordance with the directions, orders, and instructions issued by the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, in particular Directives Nos 12 and 4. To fully accomplish this task, the existing situation along the highways must be reviewed and, if the situation requires a new resolution, proposals should be presented quickly to the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland, and the Council of Ministers.

In order to maintain a careful accounting system and to supply the people with essential basic commodities, particularly, flour, wheat, cooking oil, and sugar, which are being transported to the capital by ministry or private vehicles, drivers must refrain from unloading these commodities in the yards of their respective organs. The goods must be handed over to the Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuffs or to the Ministry of Commerce. Those who disregard this practice will be seriously dealt with.

The deferment cards of drivers of private enterprises who refuse to carry out transportation duties should be cancelled and they should be sent to discharge their military service.

2. The Ministry of Construction Affairs is instructed to consider in detail and to resolve the issues relating to the maintenance and continuous control of the Salang highway to secure an uninterrupted flow of traffic along the Kabul- Hayratan highway; to activate delivery services along the highways to ensure the timely entry and exist of vehicles bound to or from Kabul and, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Transport, to supply sufficent plowing vehicles to operate along the Salang tunnel; to keep in mind seriously uninterrupted work on the Salang highway by providing continuous 24-hour work, by utilizing technical tunnel

equipment such as ventilation systems and diesel generators, ensuring full staffed levels, dispatching spare parts and materials, clearing snow, ensuring continuous road clearance, securing uninterrupted work of maintenance vehicles, accomplishing repair work, and reinforcing tunnel fire fighting personnel.

3. The Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Commerce should pay serious attention to the problem of the shortage of drivers and should therefore intensify the activities of the drivers' training center. They should reduce the term of driving courses by adding extra hours of training and should organize the courses so that they take 2 to 3 months. To attract volunteers for training, cash incentives should be allocated with the participation of the department of work and social security and if necesssary they should bring the decision to allocate funds to the Council of Ministers.

Serious and practical measures should be taken to complete the teaching material for training professional cadres. They should take extra and immediate measures to repair technical faults in transportation vehicles and to prevent unnecessary delays for vehicles in unloading and loading centers and alongside the highways and should put them into use.

They should jointly assess and resolve the issues related to the supply of fuel and oil products for private and state sector transportation vehicles and issues related to their productive untilization. They should issue an order so that vehicles would receive their required fuel and oil products from Hayratan port or from northern provinces.

To alleviate and clear up the problem posed by the shortage of drivers, those drivers of vehicles who are hired by ministries, establishments, and firms to carry out transportation duties based on the Council of Ministers 28 February resolution on norms and new mechanisms for the distribution and consumption of fuel, should be given full concessions by the relevant transportation enterprises and they should be involved fully and usefully. These drivers should be trained to fullfil their duties when transporting goods and a report should be presented concerning their activities within 2 weeks to the Council of Ministers.

To ensure the concessions hereby approved and to provide facilities to eventually remove the technical faults along highways, to give concessions in cases of compulsory delays along the highways, and to observe the technical norms, taking into account the present conditions, all the issues and difficulties of drivers of transportation vehicles should be assessed and solved.

4. The Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Commerce, and other ministries and establishments that have transportation vehicles should increase their use and quickly repair the vehicles that are not in use.

The relevant establishments and firms of border points should take immediate action to unload transportation vehicles when they arrive.

5. The Ministry of Commerce is duty bound to see that those transportation vehicles arriving at entry points are inspected immediately and sent to specified transportation localities.

It should enhance the level of organization of [word indistinct] firm. Based on a map, it should organize the area of border points and classify forms within a month in order to prevent the disorderly delivery and storage of goods, to specify the goods belonging to various bodies, and to store and place goods in warehouses separately.

6. The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of State Security, the Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Commerce are required to prepare a bill for dispatchers together with a graph on transportation vehicles and present it within 1 month to the Ministry of Justice. This will enhance the level of central dispatchers' activities and those along the Kabul-Hayratan highway and better organize their work.

They should equip the central and regional dispatching offices with cadres, personnel, equipment, communication systems, and the necessary vehicles.

7. The Ministry of Transport is duty bound to study the issue of forming transportation firms in the private sector based on transportation unions, and to present a specific proposal within a week to the Council of Ministers.

Taking into account the present situation and conditions it should prepare a new draft law to organize the destinations and activities of transport vehicles and should present it within a week to the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice, after studying it, should present it to the Council of Ministers first routine session for assessment.

The Ministry of Transport should study in depth all the issues related to the effective utilization of the private sector to send state commodities to the cities and provinces of the country and the situation in the departments of that ministry. It should take the necessary measures to improve their activities and put them into practice. It should present a report on its activities to the Council of Ministers within 2 weeks.

The owners of transportation vehicles in the private sector who refuse through various pretexts to transport goods needed by the people should be questioned seriously and refused entitled concessions.

8. The governors of Parvan, Baghlan, Samangan and Balkh provinces are duty bound to take an active part, by taking serious measures and appointing special operational groups to speed up transportation and avoid unnecessary delays and to prevent changes in tariff routes in those provinces.

9. The Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Commerce and Kabul municipality must study and solve the issue of creating a general parking area either in Kheyr Khaneh area or in Dasht-e (Chamtani) in a very simple way and with low costs by using the central dispatch office to receive transportation vehicles in Kabul city and to dispatch them to their relevant bodies in a more organized way. If the issue requires a government resolution, a specific and agreed proposal should be presented.

10. The Council of Ministers Executive Committee permanent commission on transportation affairs should be reformed at national level to better organize transportation affairs.

Mojaddedi Welcomes Shi'ites' Offer of Talks

BK0603154689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Prof Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the interim government of Afghanistan, welcomed the statement by a spokesman of the Iran-based alliance expressing their readiness for talks with the Afghan alliance based in Pakistan. He was talking to the counselor [preceding word in English] of Iran who called on him in Peshawar today.

Professor Mojaddedi reaffirmed his pledge to transfer the interim government inside Afghanistan and appealed to the people of Afghanistan to cooperate for the success of the Islamic leadership.

Mujahidin To Attack Kabul at 'End of April'

PM0703112189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Mar 89 p 5

[Interview with Muhammad Sadiq Tashkari, mujahidin commander on the "Kabul front," by Jamal Khashuqji—place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashuqji] How is the situation around Kabul at present?

[Tashkari] Kabul is the largest Afghan city, with more than 2 million inhabitants. Many communists have moved there from the provinces and areas which the mujahidin have recaptured around Kabul. We see Kabul as the heart of Afghanistan. If we captured the rest of Afghanistan without capturing Kabul, we would look like someone who had achieved nothing. Its fall is bound to lead to the capture of Afghanistan as a whole. Around Kabul there are nine governorates, most of which are under muhajidin control. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Your siege of Kabul prevented the delivery of food supplies to its inhabitants, thus threatening them with starvation. Did you intend that to happen, and is it part of your military plan?

[Tashkari] True, we know that cutting supply routes will lead to starvation for people in Kabul, but that is the responsibility of the Najib government which wants to rule a people who reject it, as they rejected it 12 years ago. We do not want to starve the inhabitants. But we do not want any food supplies to be delivered to the communist Najibullah forces either. We want them to be unable to continue ruling the Muslim people. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Are you following up the situation inside Kabul?

[Tashkari] Many Army generals and commanders have contacted us seeking safety in return for assisting us. Their morale has collapsed completely and their dream, namely the establishment of an infidel communist state in Muslim Afghanistan, has been destroyed forever. There is an old Afghan tradition to the effect that you should accept reconciliation if your rival sends you the prominent figures of the area carrying copies of the Koran. For some time now Najibullah has been sending those prominent people to plead with the mujahidin not to attack military garrisons, to negotiate with Najib, and to stop the shelling.

[Khashuqji] And have you agreed?

[Tashkari] Of course we have not agreed. I told one of them: Look at those villages which have been destroyed. They were bombarded with 10,000 kg [as published] bombs. Over a period of 10 years they have attacked us and destroyed our villages without any discrimination between the mujahidin and civilians. And now they are asking us to stop.

[Khashuqji] If Najibullah does not surrender to you, do you expect a fierce battle to capture Kabul?

[Tashkari] Yes, because Kabul is fortified, and large numbers of the communist forces fleeing from the areas captured by the mujahidin have moved to Kabul, where they are fighting desperately to spare their lives. We are confident that there are still Soviet military experts at Kabul airport. They are in charge of the advanced weapons. New units called "Qardi Khas" ["Special Guards"] are taking part in defending Kabul. They are Afghans whom the Russians took to Russia when they were young for training. Then they returned as well-trained communists. They number 30,000. They are paid well compared with ordinary Afghan soldiers, whose numbers range between 12,000 and 18,000. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] If the government does not surrender in the period ahead, when will you begin your large-scale offensive against Kabul?

[Tashkari] I hope that that will take place at the end of April after the snow melts. Until that date our military operation will continue against military garrisons in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Plan To Take Kabul Detailed

PM0703095989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Mar 89 p 5

[Interview with Muhammad Belal Nayram, mujahidin commander on the "Kabul front," by Jamal Khashuqji—place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashuqji] How is the situation around Kabul at present, and what is your nearest point to it?

[Nayram] With God's help the Russians have been defeated. They fled as a result of the mujahidin's missiles. Depite all the force they used over the past years, they failed to remove us from our advanced positions. I am now working with my mujahidin unit at Bavman [name as published], 5-6 km from Kabul. Nearly a year ago the Russians began to withdraw from important positions which they had always tried to defend, such as Towraghoudi, Khash Darreh, and Jabal Kala, but Najib's forces could not preserve them.

They are now in the mujahidin's hands and we have managed to extend our influence from the mountains to the plains around Kabul. In the past we could not control these areas for long. Our presence was confined to the mountains only.

[Khashuqji] What is your plan for entering Kabul, and when?

[Nayram] The Kabul commanders are united under a shura council called shura for binding decisions. The more united we are, the sooner we will enter the capital. It has been decided that we should seize the opportunity before the snow melts in the coming days to complete and agree on our joint plan. I believe that Kabul can only be entered through collective action.

At present we are working to besiege the enemy and advance toward military centers and garrisons, and that requires coordination among the commanders, as those centers are fortified. As for the date of the conquest, I hope it will not be long, and I emphasize that the Najib regime will only last for as long as Kabul's snow lasts.

[Khashuqji] Do you not fear that your offensive against Kabul could lead to heavy losses in civilian and mujahidin lives?

[Nayram] We realize that, but we are planning to recapture it without heavy losses in lives or government installations which, God willing, will return to our Islamic government. At the first stage we will confine our military action to important military areas. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Is it true that you are suffering missile and ammunition shortages?

[Nayram] Supplies have been affected to some extent. But we hope that the cause is the snow rather than political reasons. We, however, have sufficient quantities of the Chinese Skurbist-SKR-20 [as published] missiles. The recent ease in the shelling of Kabul was to encourage the Russians to complete their withdrawal and not to terrify civilians, and to complete a plan agreed on by all the parties.

We, thank God, have sufficient ammunition, missiles, and weapons, though what we have is much less that those in Najibullah's possession. But we have gotten used to this situation over the years of jihad, as we have never been superior to the communists in terms of armaments. We, however, have a mightier and greater weapon than all their arms combined, that is God, who is on our side. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Do you have supporters inside Kabul?

[Nayram] Yes. We have "eyes" inside the government, Army, and intelligence. We also have have fedayin units comprising military as well as civilian elements, including students and women. Some are trained in the use of arms, which have a role to play.

[Khashuqji] Does the dispute among the leaders in Peshawar affect the mujahidin inside Afghanistan?

[Nayram] Some foreign hands are dividing them, but we will unite them inside the country. The people as a whole are struggling, and after the conquest we will seek to establish one party.

[Khashuqji] What will be the role of the mujahidin and the military commanders after Kabul is conquered? And who will take over the capital?

[Nayram] Our role is confined to conquering Kabul and establishing security there. Then we will hand it over to the mujahidin government. We have obeyed the parties over the past 11 years and we will continue to obey them, regardless of the government they form. [passage omitted]

Tanay Tours Salang Security Posts, Awards Medals

LD0503182889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, paid a visit yesterday to the security posts along Salang highway. The BIA military section reports that the defense minister awarded medals and orders of the Republic of Afghanistan to officers who have shown merit in discharging their entrusted duties.

In response the officers of the security posts vowed they would not spare any act of self-sacrifice while carrying out their duties.

Nimruz Governor Addresses Provincial Leaders

LD0303182189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Major General Ghulam Nabi Yusufi, the new governor of Nimruz Province was introduced yesterday during a ceremony to the elders, leaders, people's representatives, and officials of the state departments in that province.

A BIA correspondent reported from Chakhansur that in the meeting the new governor of Nimruz Province, expressed appreciation at the Afghan leadership's trust. He spoke about the need for and importance of the declaration of the state of emergency in the country. He said he hoped the people of Nimruz Province would further participate in ensuring security and foiling the extremists' conspiracies. In reply, elders and officials of state departments pledged in their speech not to spare any self-sacrificing effort to implement the national reconciliation policy and defend national sovereignty.

India

USSR's Kamentsev Arrives 6 Mar on 7-Day Visit

BK0703035289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The Soviet deputy prime minister, Mr V.M. Kamentsev, arrived in New Delhi last night on a 7-day visit to India. He will attend a meeting of the Indo-Soviet intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation beginning today. Mr Kamentsev will also call on the prime minister and other central ministers.

Mongolia's Batmonh Begins Visits, Meets President

BK0703091489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] The general secretary of the Mongolian Revolution Party, Mr Jambyn Batmonh, called on the president, Mr Venkataraman, in New Delhi today. The two leaders exchanged views on a wide range of subjects. They noted the positive change in the international climate. The discussion was in continuation of the dialogue Mr Venkataraman had with Mr Batmonh during his visit to Mongolia in July last. The president was assisted by the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Krishna Kumar, and senior officials. The Mongolian leader was assisted by the country's foreign minister.

The Mongolian leader arrived this morning on a 4-day official visit. He was given a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] by the president, the prime minister, and his cabinet colleagues. Mr Batmonh told newsmen that he has brought the wishes of his countrymen for friendly India and its great people.

Humanitarian Assistance Granted to Afghanistan

BK0603160789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] India has agreed to provide humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan. This was stated by the Afghan foreign minister, Mr Abdul Wakil, at a news conference in New Delhi today. He said officials of the two countries are discussing the modalities.

He disclosed that the Afghan president, Dr Najib, in a special communication to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had sought economic and humanitarian assistance and wanted India to use its good offices to persuade Pakistan to observe the Geneva accord.

Mr Wakil said that during his stay in the capital, he met the prime minister, Mr Gandhi, and the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and their response has been positive.

Replying to a question, the Afghan foreign minister said that the Geneva accord is the only political solution for the Afghanistan problem.

Asked whether Afghanistan leaders would be prepared to hold discussions with the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, Mr Wakil said that Afghanistan will appreciate such a move.

Tamil MP Back From 'Secret Trip' to Sri Lanka

BK0503102689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 5 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Tamil separatists are unwilling to open negotiations before India pulls out troops, an Indian Tamil MP was quoted as saying Sunday after a secret trip to the troubled island nation.

V. Gopalaswamy said no prospects of negotiations existed unless India withdrew its 45,000-50,000 troops from Sri Lanka, released suspects and "created a conducive situation for talks," the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Mr Gopalaswamy returned to the southern Indian city of Madras late Saturday from a 24-day clandestine trip to the Tamil-majority Northern Province during which he held talks with leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

He told a news conference that he met Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and moved from one LTTE camp to another to evade arrest by the Indian peacekeeping force stationed in Sri Lanka under a 1987 peace pact aimed at crushing Tamil separatism.

PTI had reported Saturday in a despatch from Madras that Mr Gopalaswamy had been arrested by the Indian peacekeeping force and would be brought back to India in a "day or two."

But the news agency made no mention of the reported arrest in Sunday's report, which quoted the MP as saying that he had returned on his own.

Mr Gopalaswamy said the trip provided him with valuable insight into the LTTE's fight for a Tamil homeland called Eelam and its attitude towards Indian troop presence in Sri Lanka.

He said Sri Lanka's Tamil population appeared to support the LTTE's campaign "whole-heartedly."

The LTTE was "pained by" the detention of many of its leading figures in Indian army camps and resented state-owned Indian radio's propaganda blitz against the group, Mr Gopalaswamy was quoted as saying.

Mr Gopalaswamy, who belongs to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party which rules the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, admitted that he had broken party discipline by undertaking the secret trip.

But he added that he had been forgiven by the party leadership for what he described as an "impulsive" trip.

Indian troops launched a military offensive against the LTTE in October 1987 after the group repudiated the peace accord and refused to lay down arms. Some 3,000 suspected LTTE men and Indian soldiers have died in the fighting.

103 'Undertrials' Released, Taken to Punjab

BK0603125889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] One hundred and three Jodhpur undertrials were released today following withdrawal of cases against them. They are being taken to Punjab.

The government moved an application before the special court seeking withdrawal of cases against all the 188 undertrials at Jodhpur. The special court allowed the application.

Cases of other undertrials, who are ordered to be released, are being reviewed and they will be released in due course.

The release of Jodhpur undertrials is a followup of the prime minister's announcement of a package of measures for normalizing the situation in Punjab last week.

Former Minister Expelled From Akali Dal-L Party

BK0603145189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] A senior Akali Dal-L [Longowal] leader and former minister, Mr Balwant Singh, has been expelled from the primary membership of the party. This was announced by the acting president of the party, Mr Tota Singh, in Chandigarh today. He said expulsion followed the disclosure by some allegedly objectionable documents purported to be have been written by Mr Balwant Singh sometime back.

Mr Tota Singh welcomed the release of the Jodhpur undertrials and said this should have been done much earlier. He wanted urgent steps for the earlier rehabilitation of the undertrials.

Mr Balwant Singh, however, told newsmen that his expulsion is based on some forged documents.

Motion Made To Suspend 13 West Bengal Legislators

BK0603164489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] The speaker of the West Bengal assembly has admitted a motion which speaks of suspension of 13 Congress-I members. The motion was moved by the chief whip of the house, Mr Sachin Sen. He charged the Congress-I members with obstruction and interruption of the governor's address on the 27th of last month.

The 13 Congress-I MLA's [members of the Legislative Assembly] include opposition leader Mr Abdus Sattar, Mr Sultan Ahmed, Mr Subrato Mukherjee and Mr Saugat Roy. Mr Roy for his part moved a motion demanding punishment of the state fishery minister. Mr Roy alleged that the minister assaulted the Congress members in the house. The motion was rejected as Mr Roy was not present in the house. Mr Roy and his other Congress-I colleagues were not present in the house since they boycotted the assembly. This was in protest against yesterday's violent incidents in Howrah, which claimed the lives of two Congress-I workers.

The opposition leader, Mr Abdus Sattar, later told newsmen that the Congress-I members want to resign the membership in the house as their lives are not secured, as he put it. Mr Sattar expressed concern over growing attacks on his party legislators.

Briefing newsmen, he said one of them, Mr Ambika Bannerjee, was badly hurt in Howrah yesterday. In the assembly incidents last month, two other MLA's were seriously injured, he said.

Mr Sattar said he is writing a letter to his party chief, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, seeking his advice on the resignation move.

The chief secretary has said the police have been asked to inquire into the assault of Mr Bannerjee, the Congress-I MLA. However, it is reported that violence in Howrah city continues.

PRC To Cooperate in Food Processing Ventures
BK0603161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] India and China have identified a number of areas for cooperation in food processing. These are deep sea fishing, fruit and vegetable processing, marketing, (?packaging), and cold storage facilities.

Matters of mutual interest were discussed in New Delhi today at a meeting between the food processing minister, Mr Jagdish Tytler, and the visiting Chinese agriculture minister, Mr He Kang. The two sides agreed on a continued exchange of delegations to take stock of the existing infrastructure available in the two countries.

Orissa Television Transmitter Inaugurated 4 Mar
BK0603015489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] In Orissa, a low-power TV transmitter has become operational at Phulbani. The minister of information and broadcasting, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, inaugurated the transmitter yesterday. This is the 11th TV transmitter in the state. The transmitter will benefit nearly 1.5 lakh people in the tribal-dominated districts.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Announces Severance of UK Ties
LD0703093389 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—The Foreign Affairs Ministry in a statement Tuesday [7 March] announced complete severance of diplomatic ties with Britain.

The statement issued at 11:30 am local time (08:00 GMT), came at the end of a weeks deadline given to British Government to clarify its stand toward the blasphemous book of "The Satanic Verses".

At exactly the same time last Tuesday the Majlis decided to give seven days to British Government to decide over the matter.

The statement referring to the nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its objectives and negation of domination of the East and the West, said that it will continue its genuine path.

The world oppressors and the West which find genuine Islam against their objectives and plots, have risen against Islam and in this anti-Islamic campaign the role of the British Government is salient.

"In the past two centuries Britain has been in the frontline of plots and treachery against Islam and Muslims," said the statement. The Muslim nations will not forget the British plots including creation of the Zionist regime, the all-out support for it, sowing of discord among Muslims and working against Islamic movements in Iraq, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan and other Islamic countries, it added.

It went on to say that over the years the colonial Britain which has received severe blows from creation of the Islamic movements, has changed its tactics and ways of opposing Islam. To this end it has adopted more sophisticated cultural and political methods, rather than the previous military and direct intervention, said the statement.

In its recent plot against Islam, this time "the most sacred values of Islam, i.e. the Koran and the personality of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [praise be upon him] have become the target of lies and deceits of Britain" under the pretext of defending freedom of expression and human rights, it added.

It said publication of "The Satanic Verses" and offending sanctities of one billion Muslims by agents of international Zionism, as well as the zealous reaction of the Muslims, has put the West against Islamic world.

However, it added, the master minds of the plot had not foreseen the reaction. Therefore, they took the Islamic Republic of Iran and the leader of the Islamic Revolution as their target just because they had openely carried out the edict of Islam.

This was done, said the statement, to turn the ideological war which they had launched against Islam into a political war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, with the help of God this backfired because the Muslims of the world found out that if the Islamic Republic of Iran bears all the problems and stands against blasphemy with all its might, then they too can employ their whatever resources against the plot, it added.

The move of the Muslims in the most remote parts of the world in support of imam's fatwa [religious edict], is a source of pride, said the statement, and thwarting the latest plot of Britain and its allies is a proof of this fact.

The Foreign Ministry considers itself not only the executor of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran but in a larger scope, the executor and supporter of the foreign policy of the Islamic world against blasphemy. It takes defending Islam and its values as a divine and legal responsibility, it added.

Therefore, the Foreign Ministry will not tolerate plots against Islam from any country and considers respect for Islamic sanctities as part of the principles of mutual respect in its relations with the world countries, it added.

The statement reiterated support for the Majlis decision on severance of ties with the British Government. It said in the one week time given to Britain it had not launched sufficient efforts to correct its improper past stances and despite admitting that the book was insulting, did not take any action in preventing insult to Islam and Islamic sanctities. Instead, it maintained its hostile stand vis-a-vis the clear edict of Islam concerning the one who insults the prophet (PBUH), it added.

"Therefore, the Foreign Ministry believes that the conditions set by the Majlis have not been fulfilled, and thus announces a full break of diplomatic ties with Britain," said the statement.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD0703134589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] We end this newscast with the text of the statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry on complete severance of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and Great Britain:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Since its creation following several decades of genuine Islamic and popular struggle, the IRI has considered it one of its main duties to defend dear Islam, its sacred aspirations, and the oppressed Muslims in every region of the world; and by negating the domination of the East and the West, both of which had moved to cut down this holy sapling [the IRI], to continue its genuine path.

Global arrogance, particularly in the West, which finds the existence and stability of the genuine Muhammadan Islam counter to its sinister and expansionist plots has risen from every direction to confront and oppose it. The role of the British policy makers is particularly salient in this connection. For the past 2 centuries, Britain has been the vanguard of conspiracy and treachery against Islam and Muslims and the Muslim nations have never forgotten and will not forget these conspiracies, from their creation of the Zionist regime, their all-embracing support for it, the creation of new religious sects, and the sowing of the seeds of discord among the Muslims on the one hand, to working against the Islamic movements in Iraq, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, and other Islamic countries on the other hand.

During the era of the decline of old colonialism and in the century of national reawakening, the British colonial system, which has been severely hurt by the Islamic revival in the Islamic world, changed its tactics and ways of opposing Islam from military means and direct intervention to more complex cultural and political methods. In its recent conspiracy against Islam it has made the most sacred values of Islam—the Koran and the personality of its noble prophet—the target of its lies and deceitful arrows. It has taken as the pretext of its new crusade and cultural war the defense of freedom and human rights.

The publication of the book "The Satanic Verses," which insults the sanctities of the 1 billion Muslims of the world by agents of international Zionism, as well as the vigilant and zealous response of the Muslims, have dragged the West into a confrontation with the Islamic world. Since they hatched this plot to humiliate the Islamic world and to destroy the last ideological bases of Muslims, and since they did not expect this support for Islamic sanctities, they targeted the IRI and the great leader of the revolution because they openly pronounced the verdict of Islam on this matter.

This was done in order to transform the ideological war and the war of values which they launched against the Islamic world into a political war against the IRI. However, by the will of God, this tactic also backfired. The Muslims of the world realized that now that the IRI, as a revolution and a system, endures any hardship for the sake of defending Islamic values and because it intends to prevent insults against the respected prophet and stands up to global blasphemy with all its might, how can they remain silent in regard to this extensive and dangerous conspiracy despite their tremendous facilities all over the world giving them fewer limitations than the IRI.

The proud move of the Islamic ummah in most remote parts of the world in support of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious edict], may his lofty shadow extend, and the exposure of the latest plot of Britain and its allies are clear examples and sound proof of this. This highly blessed moved, which began with the courageous announcement of Islam's clear verdict against the author and his mercenary publishers, and was sealed with the blood of zealous martyrs of the Islamic world, has now become an inspiring source for the unity of the Islamic world in the face of Islam's enemies, and has become a criterion and an acid test for all those who are not prepared to give up their own spiritual and ideological values in the face of the Western system, which is against all values. This movement is a source of unity for the Muslims, who shout the slogan "The word of God is above all matters." [Koranic verse]

The Foreign Ministry considers itself not only the executor of the foreign policy of the IRI, but in a larger scope as the executor and supporter of Islam's foreign policy against blasphemy. In this connection, it regards the defense of dear Islam and its values as its divine and legal duty. Therefore it will not tolerate insults or plots against Islam from any country and considers respect for Islamic sanctities as part of the principle of mutual respect within the framework of its relations with the countries of the world.

The IRI Foreign Ministry reiterates its support for the Islamic Majlis' decision on severing diplomatic ties with the British Government. That country's efforts to correct its improper past stances during the 1 week time limit set by the Majlis was not sufficient, despite admitting that the book is insulting, as it has not acted to prevent insults to Islam and Islamic sanctities and has maintained its hostile stance toward the clear edict of Islam concerning anyone who insults the prophet. Therefore, the Iranian Foreign Ministry believes that the conditions set by the Islamic Majlis have not been fulfilled. Thus it announces the IRI completely breaks diplomatic relations with the British Government.

[Signed] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Musavi Praises Majlis Decision

LD0703112289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Following the release of a Foreign Ministry statement announcing the total severance of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the British Government, Prime Minister Musavi expressed gratitudes to the Islamic Majlis for its revolutionary measure, which delighted the entire nation—particularly the families of the martyrs, the self-sacrificing devotees, and the combatants. He said that in connection with the book, "The Satanic Verses", Britain made a big mistake and it is necessary for the world to see the consequences of this mistake.

The prime minister added: By supporting Salman Rushdie and his blasphemous book, Britain has once again demonstrated its hostility toward Islam. He said: The severance of ties with Britain is a sign of our nation's resolve to defend Islam. The severance of relations will make us count on the capability and on the forces inside our own country more than ever before.

The prime minister emphasized: The Muslims are awakened and are not ready to see their beliefs insulted by the superpowers and their writers. We are alive because of these beliefs and prepared to use all our might in order to defend the borders of our belief.

Commentary Supports Move

LD0703124189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] As stated in the news, a statement by our country's Foreign Ministry announced the complete severance of diplomatic relations with the British Government. Last week, after a few rounds of debate, the Majlis decided that if London does not apologize within a week for its previous action in supporting the book, "The Satanic Verses," diplomatic relations with that country would be severed.

During the past week, the only reaction observed from the British Government was from the prime minister and foreign secretary who said "The Satanic Verses," insulted the beliefs of Muslims. It is clear that those remarks did not meet with the Majlis' approval.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only Islamic country in the world which considers the defense of Islam and its values as the principal framework of its domestic and foreign policies and the basis for its ties with other countries. Within that context, the publication of "The Satanic Verses" which, as it has come to light, enjoys primary support from some Western governments like Britain and the United States, is the biggest direct insult to Islam and its leader at a time when, with the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the wave of Islamicization and Islamic awareness has affected not only the Middle East, but the entire Muslim world, and has either destroyed or seriously threatened the interests of the imperialists in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, and dozens of other countries.

It is clear that the Majlis decision and today's Foreign Ministry statement defend Islamic principles, and that it eventually will become apparent to the nations of the world who will be the victor in this fight. During the past 10 years, and especially in the course of the imposed war when Britain played a major role in the anti-Iranian policies, Iran has been able to exist without any great need of the West. The publication of "The Satanic Verses" by British and U.S. publishers therefore should be taken as a good omen, since it has revealed the true nature of those who were in a hurry to re-establish ties with Iran.

Islamic Iran is now at the start of the reconstruction program to eliminate the effects of the imposed war, and the conspiracy by some Western governments has made it possible for future relations with other governments to be determined with more certainty. It is clear that our country's foreign policy makers should take more care when establishing ties with governments like the British, which has played a major role in the fight against Islam.

Also, the steadfastness of our country, its leadership, government, and people, in the preservation of Islam, even if it leads to external pressure, once again has proved the time-tested fact that Iran still is considered the strong fortress of Islam in the world.

Following the severance of ties between Iran and Britain, the world's Muslims are expected to give more support to Imam Khomenyni's decree, sentencing the author of the book to death, and to pressure the heads of Islamic states to take a definite stand.

Now that preparations are under way for the ICO Foreign Ministers session in Riyadh, all the member countries, particularly the progressive and independent members, should adopt Iran's stand and not allow Britain and other enemies of Islam to deal blows to Islam. It is clear that taking a decisive stand toward Britain and the publication of "The Satanic Verses" should be placed at the top of the Islamic foreign ministers agenda.

The severance of ties between Iran and Britain also places the world's Muslims in a dangerous position. At the same time, it makes them hopeful that the Islamic revolution of Iran is still faithful to its Islamic values.

More Reaction to 'Satanic Verses,' UK Dispute

Shevardnadze Offers To Mediate

LD0603191889 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] London, March 6, IRNA—The Foreign Office is unsure if Iran would proceed on Tuesday to sever all diplomatic links with Britain.

A spokesman told IRNA the final decision rests with Tehran and that he was not expecting any further developments in London concerning the issue.

Britain had said all it wanted to say "very clearly... we shall have to wait and see what the decision is."

The Iranian Majlis last week overwhelming voted to give the British Government one week's notice to either change its stance in supporting the publication of "The Satanic Verses" that is seen as blasphemous against Islam or face a complete cut in relations.

Since then both Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe have officially acknowledged for the first time that the book was "deeply offensive" to Muslims and distanced themselves from its publication.

Each claimed its publication represented the freedom of expression in Britain and only the courts, not the government, could intervene in the matter.

The Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that Howe had met the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Vienna Monday, who reportedly had offered to intervene in the dispute, but was unable to say if anything concrete had resulted from their talks.

Howe Solidarity 'Poppycock'

LD0603170589 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] London, March 6, IRNA—The solidarity expressed by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe with Muslims over "The Satanic Verses" was nothing but "poppycock," a daily here has said.

The degree of offence caused by the book to Britain was of a "lower order" than felt by Muslims and in any event Howe "had no business" in making official announcement on matters that are seen as literary, it suggested.

Speaking on BBC World Service last Thursday, [2 March] the foreign secretary compared the blashphemy against Islam in the publication with remarks also made that likened Britain with Hitler's Germany.

The London INDEPENDENT said Monday that such an analogy about Britain was "too foolish" to deserve attention and that Howe's sympathy with Islam was "false" and "bogus."

It recognized his address was pointed towards making overtures with Iran following its move to cut relations with London unless it changed its attitude on the book but believed that any conciliatory remarks did not exceed the apology made by the author himself.

The paper like most of the British press prefered to see the row over "The Satanic Verses" as a dispute with Iran and maintained that those killed in protests in India and Pakistan were "innocent third parties," Even though deaths occurred before last month's fatwa [religious decree].

It further failed to mention that the campaign over the book had started with Muslims in the U.K., where it was originally published last September and that their protests had been treated by the media with disdain and derision for five months.

Besharati on 'Sinister Plots'

LD0703065389 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 7 IRNA—The Majlis in its today's session is to take up the issue of Tehran-London row caused over the publication of The Satanic Verses according to an Iranian daily.

Today is the last day of a week-long ultimatum given to the British Government by the Majlis to revise its stance towards the Muslim world or face severence of ties with Iran.

Last Tuesday [28 February], the Majlis obliged the Foreign Ministry to cut relations with Britain within one week unless London discontinued support for Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel and apologized to Muslims the world over.

First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati told JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in a telephone interview last night that Britain had tried to contact Iran last week to discuss the issue.

"But we rejected the offers and made it clear that the Majlis plan did not need any discussions," the paper quoted him as saying.

Asked by JOMHURI to comment on a recent remark by the French prime minister that he was thinking of creating a "front" against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Besharati said the French official was either ignorant or pretended to be so.

"Since the victory of the Islamic revolution and even before that, the arrogant world had become united against us and we witnessed a full manifestation of this solidarity in the Iraqi imposed war," he added.

"The supply of the most advanced armaments by both the West and the East to Iraq was the result of such an unholy alliance. But what the alliance ended up to?" Besharati asked.

The Foreign Ministry official was confident that Salman Rushdie's case would not be the last offensive of arrogance against Islam, and warned Muslims to be alert to neutralize "these sinister plots."

"Even if the British Government retreats, this is not the end of the story. Plots of this kind will be repeated elsewhere and on other occasions," he concluded.

Media Views Ties With UK

LD0703083989 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 7 Mar 89

["Press Review"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 7 IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES in an editorial Tuesday [7 March] called on Britain to "act against Rushdie before it is too late".

It said Britain's move to appease the Muslims was "too late and too little." It was referring to statements by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Secretary of State Sir Geoffrey Howe who admitted "The Satanic Verses" was very offensive to Muslims.

"Naturally this alone is not simply enough to heal the wounds of the enraged Muslims," it added.

"The Muslims expect the British Government to openly condemn the book and stop its further sale and publication. They also expect that the author should be tried as he offended the Muslims," added the editorial.

Turning to the one-week deadline given to the British Government by the Iranian Majlis to condemn and ban the book, it said the Iranian Government will most probably decide on the issue in its Wednesday session "after an overall assessment of British stand over the issue."

It said up to now there are people in London and Tehran who consider severance of ties as the last resort in solving the issue. "But the ball is in the court of the United Kingdom. If they condemn and ban the book it may make the job of Tehran easy. At a later stage the British Government may pave the way for prosecution of the author," added the editorial.

"We would like to remind Mrs. Thatcher of an elementary 'civics', that rights and duties go together. If one of these is ignored it results in a tragedy such as 'The Satanic Verses'," said the paper adding that the author while using the rights of expression should have respected sentiments of the Muslims.

"We hope that Mrs. Thatcher will take appropriate action against the author and the book today if only to defuse the situation. Tomorrow may be too late."

Meanwhile the English KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in a similar editorial said time is up for Britain and the Iranian Foreign Ministry will announce Iran's decision on fate of diplomatic relations with Britain.

"What can be gathered from the recent developments, events, official and unofficial views and also the tone of the British mass media is that the Majlis' ultimatum has served to give new dimensions to the ties between Iran and Britain, on the one hand, and that of Iran and other European (Economic Community) countries on the other," said the paper.

It said the decision of the Majlis has put Britain and EC countries on a "wait-and-see" attitude. It has also served to bring their rush to impose punitive economic measures against Iran to a halt. In this midst, the British Government, as Iran's No 1 target in this episode, has been asked to retreat.

The editorial said the views expressed by the British Government officials are generally in line with the course predicted by some analysts. They believe that London by announcing its disapproval of this book will try to lessen its condemnation by world Muslims especially the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The editorial concluded that the statements made by British officials were to get the country out of the deadlock as a result of their stand towards Iran and "not as a way of fulfilling conditions put by Majlis."

West's 'Rashness' Examined

NC0403144889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 89 p 3

[Unattributed commentary entitled "West's Boycott of Iran: Good Example of Rash Diplomacy"]

[Text] British officials at the Foreign Ministry have said that relations with Iran are continuing despite there being no diplomatic representation between the two countries. The British mission in Tehran suspended activities following Imam Khomeyni's Fatwa against British author Salman Rushdie and the furor that has enveloped the Muslim world on the publication of his blasphemous book which has injured the feelings of over a billion Muslims across the world.

Now all the stir caused by the publication of the book "The Satanic Verses" has salutary lessons for all concerned over this issue. A major lesson of course is that decisions made in the heat of moment and especially during a crisis of this nature need to be informed by wisdom rather than impulse.

Some have asked why Western European nations and especially those with good relations with Iran such as West Germany moved so hastily to make a decision which could possibly give a handle to domestic political groups who have always attacked the revolution's foreign policy and hopes of a more flexible movement in relations with the West.

All in all then, it must appear that the West has been more than rash and at fault in reacting in the way they have done. In fact they have prevaricated and held back to test Iran out for far too long. To have done this was a result of a serious misjudgement of strategic policies in relations with this country after Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 last August, 1988.

After the truce in the Iran-Iraq war and a determination on Iran's part to turn towards reconstruction and with this in mind to adopt changed foreign policy stances was part of the political strategy of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who as is well known is quite a force in the political arena here. A certain thaw was no doubt observable and there was created a new atmosphere in foreign policy relations with Western bloc countries. One could see plenty of momentum in this direction despite obstacles and impediments from hardline groups. In less than three months a number of longstanding problems were resolved and several high-ranking Western diplomats were here to sort these out and more were expected.

However, all this has momentarily been wrecked, only because the West has regrettably failed to understand the psychology of the Muslim world and the deep sanctities in which the Muslims hold their religion. The West should not have expected any other reaction to the Rushdie publication than what has come. Hence its decision to act completely against the grain of all the efforts for betterment of ties with this country have now been undermined. It is our view that they should have paused to take stock and been more cognizant of religious sentiments of a wide circle of Muslims around the world and of our revolutionary leader who is concerned to do nothing but what is right as a representative of Muslims here and throughout the world.

In the circumstances, there appears to be no alternative now but for the Islamic Republic of Iran to take a reciprocal stance on relations with Western countries and react according to the response shown din future. And this has been the experience of the past and will be so in the future.

UK Statement 'Not Enough'

LD0403151889 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 4 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Britain's new position agreeing that "The Satanic Verses" offended Muslims was a "retreat from Britain's previous shameless position" but not enough to appease Islamic Iran, the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

It said British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's remark that Salman Rushdie still had the right to publish whatever he wished was not acceptable and "for this reason the present anger throughout the Islamic world was continuing and in fact growing by the day."

In a commentary Saturday the paper advised Britain to apologize to world Muslims in the conflict over "The Satanic Verses", before it was too late.

"Howe's statements indicate that they (British officials) know they have insulted the divine beliefs of one billion Muslims," it said.

"Now the point is that they apologize to the Muslim world for their deliberate mistake. Certainly it would be something that is in Britain's interest."

The Iranian Majlis has given a one week respite to London to re-think its position, for confessing to the blunder that it has made and for [word indistinct] to the Muslim world.

The paper said Britain knew fully well that as far as the Islamic Republic was concerned relations with the U.K. "is not worth a penny."

West 'Sure Loser' in Test

LD0503172489 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Ellipses as received]

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—On the eve of the 1422nd anniversary of the divine appointment of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [Peace Be Upon Him] as the final messenger to mankind, the daily RESALAT said that the West was the eventual loser in the "test of faith" it had started with the Muslim world by its rash defense of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses."

It said that whatever turn the United Kingdom makes concerning the blasphemous novel and its ties with Iran, "one thing is certain, London along with the European Community (EC) is a sure loser."

Following are excerpts from the editorial published on the occasion of the anniversary of the religious feast eid ol-mab'as.

"Today 1422 years since the Almighty appointed Muhammad (PBUH) as the final Prophet, and in the climax of the ceaseless battle between faith and 'kufr' (disbelief) the present-day Muslim world is better off than it seems to be... the divine call which addressed the great Prophet in the cave of Harrat (near Mecca) still retains its freshness to mankind on the Earth...and hearts of millions of Muslims throb for him...

"The reaction of Muslims to Salman Rushdie's novel 'The Satanic Verses' is manifestation of Muslim power throughout the world. The street scenes in Dhaka, Lahore, Bombay, Islamabad, Sringar and even London and Paris are symptoms of this very majesty.

"No doubt Lebanon and Afghanistan are two contemporary examples for measuring this power. Much as the West has advanced in marine science, space technology and natural sciences, it is still incapable of comprehending the basics of intellectual issues of the present-day world...

"Admittedly 'reason' and 'intellectual concepts' as well as 'heart' and heartfelt intuitions are solely in the hands of a 'power' which is the sole determinant of man's future course: Islam...

"Perhaps more abusive than 'The Satanic Verses' was the stance of the EC. One interpretation of its behavior was that the EC meant to intimidate Iran that it would resume relations at the cost of insulting Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Islamic sanctities...

"In the remaining precious moments of Iran's ultimatum to the British Government, London may [be] hesitating between support for "the product of a writer's fancies" and continued relations with the Muslim world. The latter also means an end to a dangerous manipulation of Muslim peoples' religious feelings, And... it is generally believed that they (the British) are unlikely to abandon their crude designs.

"At any rate one thing is clear, the choice of either alternative will mean that the West is the principal loser in the fray... the problem is for the West, and the eventual victory will be ours ...

"The current movement throughout the Muslim world augurs the advent of auspicious developments at which Muslims of the world will solidify their common ties based on a common belief..."

'Black Propaganda' Pains Islam

NC0403154989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial entitled "Muslims Facing a Crucial Test" from the "Opinion" column]

[Text] Once more the Islamic 'Ulema, intellectuals and heads of Islamic states stand one of the greatest divine tests. Today the long-standing hatred of Zionism and the West has once again surfaced. They have now embarked on supporting one of the most blasphemous and ignominious cultural moves in the name of freedom of expression. Their venomous bullets of black propaganda and inhumanitarian deeds have pained the hearts of Muslims the world over.

Thunderous demonstrations by Muslims in various parts of the world have led to the martyrdom and injury of scores of Muslims at the hands of imperialists. Objections have been raised by the 'Ulema and Muslim scholars.

Yet the world arrogant powers not only did not desist in their dastardly deeds, but intensified their animosity. The latest hostile move by the imperialists came this time through a decision taken by the European Economic Community (EEC) and some other countries to cut off diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Such a move by the EEC and others can be easily interpreted in the light of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been the forerunner in fighting against the world of Kufr [disbelief] and in foiling their continuous conspiracies against Islam. It is, therefore, no wonder that the heart of the Islamic sphere i.e., the Islamic Republic of Iran should be the target of relentless assault by the world's unbelievers and arrogant powers.

Everybody knows that the book "Satanic Verses" appeared a year ago. The publication of the book was banned in India, Pakistan, Egypt and some other countries during the last few months. Meantime, the book was constantly subjected to Muslims' abhorrence and disgust. Yet despite the enormity of hatred displayed by the Muslims the world of Kufr and arrogance and their agents made every possible effort to boost its circulation translating into various languages of the world. They also spent a great deal of money in this regard and their propagandistic efforts were in full swing to popularize this mischievous book.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remained silent carefully watching such developments. This silence lasted until the blasphemous affair gained more momentum posing a threat to the Muslim world. It was at such a crucial moment that Imam Khomeyni, ignoring the expected accusations by the West, firmly came out putting forth his Fatwa (religious decree) which had the approval of all Islamic sects.

The decree came as the most suitable and timely stance vis-a-vis the world arrogant powers since other stances such as banning the book would have only worked to enhance its circulation. This would pour more money into the pockets of the greedy Western publishers in the first place and they would certainly go for higher circulations of the book.

Today the Islamic 'Ulema and Muslim heads of state stand a crucial test of the time. The Muslims nations expect them to clarify their stance in this regard with no reservation rather than paying only lip-service to the issue. As Imam Khomeyni pointed out the world of Islam in its totality is threatened by the unbelievers. Therefore, all Muslims whether Arab, non-Arab, Sunni or Shi'a, have to rise against this plot. Any negligence on the past of the Islamic 'Ulema, Thinkers, and heads of the Islamic nations to safeguard the sanctities of Islam will be interpreted as their lack of zeal towards Islam as well as their tacit consideration not to hurt the West.

It is in such a crucial point in time that Muslims everywhere should be reminded of numerous verses in the Koran to stand firm against unbelievers when they are out to humiliate and destroy Islam.

Action Urged Against FRG Over Rushdie Affair

LD0703142989 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—The Majlis, which broke off Iran's relations with Britain in the conflict over "The Satanic Verses", has been urged by a daily paper to also take action against West Germany.

KAYHAN said members of the Majlis and foreign affairs officials should carefully study ways to respond to Bonn's "insulting attitude" in the affair.

"The audacious German insults to holy Islam and the great leadership of the Islamic revolution must not be left unanswered," it said in a commentary.

"This will be an experience for others to be careful in what they say and do."

West Germany has cancelled a meeting of the joint economic commission with Iran and frozen a cultural agreement.

A Majlis ultimatum giving London a week to retreat from its position that the British author Salman Rushdie was free to write his anti-Islamic book, ended Tuesday resulting in complete severance in diplomatic ties.

Britain had already withdrawn its entire diplomatic staff from Tehran in a coordinated European Community protest against Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious edict] ordering Muslims to kill Rushdie as an apostate.

KAYHAN, Iran's largest selling newspaper, published in its front page a photo of the British Embassy in Tehran which showed the British flag missing from the flag pole in front of the main building.

It was the latest paper to also condemn West Germany's role in the western campaign against Iran.

Reactions to the imam's fatwa from Britain and France were predictable, KAYHAN said, but not from West Germany.

"The Germans, who were famous for being the only link with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the most critical situations in the West's relations with the Islamic revolution, have overtaken others in declaring their hostility," it said.

Bonn's Stance Observed

NC0403171789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial entitled "Bonn Will Lose Greatly for Rash Policies" from the "Opinion" column]

[Text] A new bill, proposed by some 100 Majlis deputies, calling for a total severance of ties between Tehran and London has introduced a yet new dimension to the Salman Rushdie crisis.

Given the political attacks heaped on Britain from many a political quarter in Iran over London's stance towards the Rushdie case, it may be inferred that Iran's Government and Parliament view the U.K. to have played an axial role in the frantic episode. As such it will be London that should shoulder the responsibility for deterioration in the bilateral ties.

Bonn's government too adopted a position of much the same rancor as that of London's towards the Islamic Republic. It was indeed surprising that as Iran's number one West European economic partner, West Germany must have toed the same line. Bonn is at present also spearheading move for imposition of an economic embargo on Iran.

It is to be remembered that the occupation of the U.S. Tehran Embassy way back in 1979, also entailed an EEC economic sanction against Tehran. At that time West Germany, swiftly moved in, broke the embargo and won a large portion of Iran's strategic industries market.

Outmaneuvered by Bonn, other EEC members grew in their ill-at-ease position and became concerned. The fact that Iran's large market is a fantastic market for Western Europe can never be foregone in economic calculations.

The rift brought about in the EEC in the aftermath of West Germany's well-thought-out politico-economic move undermined the steamrolling effects the West was expecting to get from its embargo against Tehran. It can be readily concluded that Foreign Minister Genscher's tour of Iran in November 1988 was certainly an orchesterated move on the part of the EEC as a whole to secure a number of things in Tehran. Among the points Genscher had probably promised his allies to discuss in Tehran were human rights, freedom of Ahmad Danesh (charged with treason and links to MKO [Mojahedin-e-Khalq]), the release of Western hostages in Beirut and a suitable share for the West in reconstruction projects.

But looking at the past now that the smokescreen is clearer it can be realized that West Germany and the West in general had not obtained quite the kind of answers they were expecting from Iran. Genscher's interviews after his Tehran visit all give a clue to this and reinforce such an assumption. Add to this the fact that Germany's campaign for human rights violations in Iran and the freedom of Danesh turned out to be a failure.

Another issue that lent momentum to an anti-Iran policy on Bonn's part is the appointiment of Vernon Walters to the U.S. Embassy in Bonn.

Walters is among the most staunch Iran-haters in the U.S. administration.

His rather tactful tactics in Germany, it may be said, have been conducive to putting Genscher and his wing on better footing vis-a-vis rival groups in the country. The Genscher wing will then have to curry his favor.

As such it can be drawn that today the Bonn government is indeed dragged in a whirlpool of rash anti-Iran policies masterminded by Washington. The serious consequences of these policies will hit Germany in various ways particularly in the economic sphere in particular, more than others who fell for not-too-subtle anti-Iran stances.

PFLP Statement on Killing Rushdie Noted

LD0603195989 Tehran IRNA in English 1334 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus, March 6, IRNA—Directors general and theologians of the Syrian Awqaf (Islamic Endowments) Ministry Sunday condemned publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses."

"Islam is a strong fortress, and poisonous pens of imperialism and Zionism cannot harm it," they said in a statement.

It said no Muslim can bear the slanderous contents of Salman Rushdie's book, and the only aim behind the book was to sow discord among world nations.

Speaking at the session Syrian Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Majid Tarabulsi said "imperialist and Zionist hands are behind the plot (publication of the book) with the aim of deviating public opinion of the world Muslims from the Palestinian uprising." Tarabulsi visited Iran last February.

Meanwhile, the National Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Ahmad Jibril announced readiness to carry out Imam Khomeyni's Fatwa against Salman Rushdie. The front in a communique published here today announced that it was ready for the revolutionary execution of "mercenary Salman Rushdie" as a religious duty and in defense of Islam and its holy Prophet.

Pakistani Religious Leaders Support Imam's Edict

LD0603202289 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad, March 6 IRNA—An Islamic scholar and a former presidential advisor of Pakistan said today that Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious edict] for Rushdie's execution has been sanctioned according to Koranic conducts and Sunna (tradition).

Pir Mohammad Ashraf told IRNA in Lahore that world Muslims should keep their unity and gather under the banner of Imam Khomeyni in order to safegard the mission of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [Peace Be Upon Him].

Meanwhile, six Friday prayer leaders of Sunni Mosques in Lahore issued a joint statement expressing support for Imam Khomeyni's fatwa.

Also the Karachi-based weekly "TAKBIR" in an editorial urged the Pakistani government to support the "principled stance" of Imam Khomeyni.

Except for several theologians none of the Muslim 'ulema have disagreed with Imam Khomeyni's fatwa and "this unity and similarity of view among Muslim 'ulema is unprecedented in the present era," the weekly writes.

It also proposed that all Muslim countries recall their ambassadors to Western countries in a retaliation against West's recalling of its diplomats from Tehran in support of Rushdie.

Montazeri Warns Hikmatyar on Mujahidin 'Rift'

LD0703121489 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri has warned an Afghan guerrilla leader of the dangers of the continuing rift among mujahidin factions, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily reported Tuesday.

In a meeting with the defence minister of the Afghan mujahidin interim government Gulbudin Hikmatyar in Qom Monday, the ayatollah said the superpowers were trying to sow discord among the Afghans.

"Afghan combatants should be vigilant and allow the participation of all active Muslim elements... in the establishment of the future Afghan government," he said.

Hikmatyar, also the leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan is in Iran to try to patch up differences with leaders of the Tehran-based 8-party mujahidin alliance on their participation in the interim government.

The government-in-exile was set up last month but the Afghan guerrillas in Iran boycotted a crucial consultative assembly, or shura, which selected the government members.

They claimed an earlier agreement with the leader of the mujahidin based in Pakistan had been vetoed, and they were not fairly represented in the shura.

On Friday leader of the Iran-based group, Muhammad Karim Khalili called on his colleagues in Pakistan to show greater flexibility or continue to be shunned.

"The U.S. and its lackeys are not allowed to try to interfere in this Muslim country now that the Soviet forces have been driven out," Ayatollah Montazeri was quoted as saying.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the future leader of the Islamic Republic also reiterated Iran's stand that the destiny of Afghanistan should be determined by its own people with self-confidence and faith in God.

He urged Afghan combatants to take the example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) when his forces captured Mecca and not to think of revenge of any sort after achieving victory.

Urges Shi'ite-Sunni Solidarity

NC0703074089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, met with deputy leader Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday evening, and briefed him on the current situation of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

During this meeting, the deputy leader stressed the need to preserve solidarity among all Afghanistan's combatant and mujahidin forces, and stated: Try to make the future goverment of Afghanistan depend on all the people of Afghanistan and comprise all the revolutionary factions, both Sunni and Shi'ite, in proportion to the population and to the supporters of each religion. This is because only a government that depends on the entire nation and which people have faith in can be stable.

Pointing to the plots by the Zionists and by Satanic forces, he stated: Instigations and provocations may begin now which will ultimately, God forbid, lead to war and to domestic conflict between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis in Afghanistan. It is the duty of the mujahidin brothers of Afghanistan to be alert, and by trusting each other and taking Islamic stances, all the Muslim factions that were active in the revolution should lay the foundations of the future government of Afghanistan through unity of word and complete understanding.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri also pointed out: Now that the Soviet forces have left Afghanistan, the United States and its minions should not try to interfere in that country, and the people of Afghanistan themselves should determine their future with self-confidence and with faith in God.

Referring to the [word indistinct] of the holy prophet, PBUH, [peace be upon him] in the conquest of Mecca, he said: The Afghan mujahidin brothers who, God willing, will emerge victorious soon, should not think of revenge. Everyone, both Shi'ite and Sunni, should follow the example set by the prophet of Islam, PBUH, and compile their policy on the basis of a pardon.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With PRC's Tian Jiyun

LD0703123389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 89

[Text] PRC Vice Premier Tian Jiyun met today with Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. According to a report from the Majlis Public Relations Office the meeting was also attended by the two countries's ambassadors, the executive deputy of the prime minister, and some Majlis deputies and Foreign Ministry officials.

The Chinese vice premier conveyed the warm greetings of his country's leaders to the Majlis speaker. He then pointed to the long-standing bilateral relations, and said: Your Excellency's visit to our country in 1985 left a profound effect on the expansion of bilateral relations. Now the Chinese Government is looking forward to Khamene'i's forthcoming important visit to the PRC. He further described his meetings with Iranian officials as successful.

Then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while recollecting his visit to China, said: During that trip it became clear to us that the officials of your country are totally sincere in regard to relations with our country and issues. The Majlis speaker expressed satisfaction with the relations between the two countries, and said: Both the people and the officials of our country are aware that China has effectively cooperated with us in special circumstances. Naturally, under the present conditions, the two countries need to renew relations.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Not all the aspects in which the two countries can cooperate are as yet recognized by both sides. It would be appropriate for more delegations to be exchanged and Mr Khamene'i's visit can lead to important decisions in that regard.

The Majlis speaker concluded saying: Fortunately the kind of apprehension that one has in regard to relations with big powers does not exist in connection with establishing and expanding relations with you.

The same report says Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded by once again renewing our country's invitation to Messrs Zhao Ziyang and Wan Li.

Sri Lanka

AFP: Extradition of Indian Tamil MP Demanded
BK0603115789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1125 GMT 6 Mar 89

[Text] Colombo, March 6 (AFP)—Sri Lanka will ask for the extradition of an Indian Tamil MP [Member of Parliament] who clandestinely entered the island's northern province, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Monday.

Mr. V. Gopalaswamy of the south Indian Tamil Nadu government returned home Saturday after a 24-day visit to the Tamil-dominated Sri Lankan Province during which he had talks with Tamil separatist leaders.

Mr. Wijeratne told the British Broadcasting Corporation Monday that he expected Tamil Nadu authorities to take action against Mr. Gopalaswamy.

"I understand he (Mr. Gopalaswamy) was here illegally. We will ask the Tamil Nadu government to take action against him. If not we will ask to extradite him to Sri Lanka and we will try to take action against him," Mr. Wijeratne said.

The Tamil MP has said in Madras, the capital of Tamil Nadu, that he had talks with Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE is waging a guerrilla war against some 45,000 to 50,000 Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's north and east in line with a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

Mr. Gopalaswamy has said that Tiger leaders were unwilling to open negotiations until the Indian Peace Keeping Forces (IPKF) were withdrawn from the island republic.

The MP, who belongs to the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party, had admitted that he broke party discipline by undertaking the secret trip, but told reporters that his party leadership had forgiven him.

Mr. Wijeratne rejected an immediate Indian pullout suggested by Mr. Gopalaswamy after talks with the LTTE leader somewhere in Sri Lanka's northern jungles. "We will not talk to him (Mr. Prabhakaran) under any condition. We will not yield to any demands of Prabhakaran. He must come out into the open without any conditions. It is a matter of time before the IPKF gets him," Mr. Wijeratne said.

A stepped up Indian offensive is underway in the northern Mullaitivu jungles to break LTTE resistance and some 40 to 50 LTTE activists have died since the fresh offensive began March 2, Indian officials here said Monday.

Minister Replies to Party Leader on Violence
BK0503112889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Mar 89

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne said the government is aware and quite alive to the unfortunate and dastardly acts of violence that have been committed in the North, Central, and Eastern provinces.

In a reply to a letter written by the leader of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Srimavo Bandaranaike, to the president, the minister pointed out that the government has taken several measures to ensure greater protection and security to the innocent people living in these remote villages. The armed services and the police have also not shut their eyes to this situation.

The minister said several of his cabinet colleagues have visited the affected areas. He added that Mrs Bandaranaike's letter to the president, which was also released to the media, appears to indicate that she had not clearly understood the security situation in these areas.

The foreign minister has replied to Mrs Bandaranaike on a directive by President Premadasa. In his reply Mr Wijeratne further points out that already nearly 5,000 Indian troops have left the island.

Mrs Bandaranaike's letter to the president states that all the violence took place while the Indian Peacekeeping Force was still in the island. All the Indian troops will leave as soon as the Sri Lankan security forces could take their place. Action has already been taken to strengthen the provincial police in the north and east. They will help in preventing this type of surprise attacks in the future.

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